

Strand Releasing presents

THE KIND WORDS

A FILM BY SHEMI ZARHIN

Starring Rotem Zissman-Cohen, Roy Assaf, Asaf Ben-Shimon, Tsahi Halevi

*Official Selection:
Toronto International Film Festival*

PRELIMINARY PRESS NOTES

Country of Origin: Israel/Canada
Format: DCP/1.85/Color
Sound Format: Dolby SRD
Running Time: 118 minutes
Genre: Drama/Comedy
Rating: Not Rated
In French and Hebrew with English Subtitles

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<http://strandreleasing.com/films/the-kind-words/>

LOGLINE

Three siblings joined by the death of their mother, and a revelation about the identity of their "real" father, who to their shock and chagrin may have been an Algerian Muslim.

SYNOPSIS

In the wake of their mother's death, three Jewish Israeli siblings – Dorona (Rotem Zissman-Cohen) and brothers Netanel (Roy Assaf) and Shai (Assaf Ben-Shimon) – learn some unexpected news about the identity of their “real” father. The three along with Dorona’s husband, Ricki (Tsahi Halevi), set off on a quirky and oftentimes wryly humorous journey from Israel through Paris and Marseille in search of the truth, but end up confronting their own ideas on identity.

LONG SYNOPSIS

At age 35, Dorona's life seems to have hit a dead-end. She can't have children, she's abandoned attempts at adoption, and she seems intent on pushing her loving husband Ricky as far away as possible. On top of all this, her father has left her mother after 30 years of marriage.

Dorona flees to her mother's house, the only place where she can always count on a shoulder to cry on, hoping to find some peace, but it turns out that her mother has been concealing a serious illness, and she soon passes away, leaving Dorona and her two brothers, Natanel and Shai, in a state of shock and grief.

Now, alone in their mother's house, the three siblings make a shocking discovery: their father is not really their father! Their mother had been concealing a life-long affair, with her lost love from Algeria.

The three set out on a journey to Paris and Marseilles determined to find the truth about their past, and also each, like Dorona, running away from their present:

Try as she might, Dorona can't escape her current life as her husband insists on coming along for the trip.

They are well on the trail of their illusive father, with the help of their reclusive Aunt, and an aging French Film star, but when their 'former' father shows up to reclaim his family, things get a little out of control, and the three siblings are forced to face some difficult and often hilarious questions about identity, truth and love.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I love stories where life is lived "on the edge." I love reality's ability to surprise until life often seems like an unrealistic movie, and reality itself acts like a wonderland. I especially love the protagonists' amazed, stunned expressions every time they are faced with a new, extreme turn of the plot. These expressions reveal the exaggerated, childish confidence they have in their day to day routines, as well as their distress in the face of any change or discovery. It makes me laugh, it makes me sad, and mainly it makes me love them very much.

But it also makes me worry: What will happen when they find out that the truth they are looking for is a pile of lies and prejudice? What will be their fate when they discover there is no consolation in the facts of the past, which only imprison the present and enslave the future? And love, even though it exists and is deep, is not always enough? And whether eventually they will realize that their lives and their identities depend solely on their desire?

A strange thing happened to me: the production of "The Kind words" is long over and I find that I am still worried about the characters who have become my immediate family. Maybe it expresses concern that I have for my kids, myself, and for the place where I live. Dorona, Natanel and Shai, three little liars, three young Israelis who do not know how to love and do not realize that it was time to say goodbye to the past in order to reconcile and live in peace with the present and the future. True, they are blind and desperate, but they have courage, humor and a bit of hope. So although I am concerned I trust them.

They are three very Kind Words.

THE CAST - Recent Films:

Rotem Zisman Cohen (Dorona):

2014 Matat – Director/Actress
2014 Zinuk Baalia – directed by Oren Shtern
2013 Hunting elephants – directed by Reshef Levy
2013 A place in paradise – directed by Yossi Madmoni
2012 The World Is Funny – directed by Shemi Zarhin
2011 Fifth heaven – directed by Dina Zvi Riklis
2010 Valley of Strength – directed by Dan Wolman

Roy Assaf (Natanel):

2012 God's Neighbors – directed by Meni Yaesh
2012 Single Plus – directed by Dover Kosashvili
2011 Testimony – directed by Shlomi Elkabetz
2009 Jaffa – directed by Keren Yedaya
2009 Kirof – directed by Dani Lerner
2009 Habodedim – directed by Renen Shor

Asaf Ben Shimon (Shai):

2014 The Farewell Party – directed by Tal Granit & Sharon Maymon
2010 Hitganvut Yehidim – directed by Dover Koashashvili

Tsahi Halevi (Ricky):

2013 Bethlehem – directed by Yuval Adler

Sasson Gabay (Michael):

2014 Gett: the trail of Vivien Amsellem – directed by Shlomi & Ronit Elkabetz
2013 Hunting Elephants – directed by Reshef Levy
2013 Kidon – directed by Emmanuel Naccache
2011 When Pigs have Wings – directed by Sylvain Estibal
2011 Restoration – directed by Jossef Madmoni
2007 The Band's Visit – directed by Eran Kolirin
2006 Aviva my love – directed by Shemi Zarhin

Florence Bloch (Aunt Rosa):

2014 Tu Veux Ou Tu Veux Pas – directed by Tony Marshal
2008 Bruria – directed by Hadar Galron
2006 Rachamim – directed by Yaniv Amoudai
2004 Avanim – directed by Raphael Nadjari
2003 James's Journey To Jerusalem – directed by Ra'anana Alexandrovitch
2002 Sherman in the Winter – directed by Ori Inbar

Levana Finkelstein (Yona):

2014 The Farewell Party – directed by Tal Granit & Sharon Maymon.
2012 The World Is Funny – directed by Shemi Zarhin
2010 Valley of Strength – directed by Dan Wolman

2010 A matter of Size – directed by Sharon Maymon & Erez Tadmor
2007 The Little Traitor – directed by Lynn Roth
2006 Aviva my love – directed by Shemi Zarhin

With

Maurice Benichou (Amelie, Hidden)

Louise Portal (The Barbarian Invasions)

Shemi Zarhin – Filmography

Film director, screenwriter and a novelist. He has created some of Israel's most successful, awarded and acclaimed films in recent years. Born (1961) and raised in Tiberias (where some of his stories take place), Shemi Zarhin is a graduate of The Film and Television department at Tel-Aviv University. He teaches filmmaking courses at the **Sam Spiegel School in Jerusalem**. In 1996 he was awarded **The Ministry of Arts and Culture's Prize** for Filmmakers. In 2009 he was awarded the prestigious **Landau Prize** for filmmaking. He directed dozens of commercials and TV episodes has been a script editor and consultant for many films (**The Farewell Party**) and written articles and film critiques for Israeli newspapers.

2012 THE WORLD IS FUNNY

Chicago IFF 2012, Palm Springs 2012.
was the highest grossing Israeli film of 2012,
and received an unprecedented 15 nominations
for the Israeli Academy Awards

2006 AVIVA, MY LOVE

Chicago IFF 2006 – Best Script
Shanghai IFF 2006 – Best Script
6 Israeli Academy Awards including Best Film

2007 NOODLE, which he co-wrote, has been remade into the French film COOKIE, released in 2012.

2003 BONJOUR MONSIEUR SHLOMI Winner of 21 awards in international festivals worldwide including Valliadolid, Festroia, Giffoni and more

1998 DANGEROUS ACTS

Winner of 7 Israeli Academy Awards including Best Director

1995 PASSOVER FEVER

Best Screenplay Montreal IFF 1995

For his first novel SOME DAY, one of the biggest best sellers in Israel ever, he received the Steimatzky Prize (2012) and the Kugel Prize (2013). SOME DAY was published in English in USA, received rave reviews and listed among the Notable Translations of 2013 by World Literature Today.

CAST

Dorona

Natanel

Shai

Ricky

Michael

Yona

Aunt Rosa

Maurice

Isabelle Moretti

Rotem Zisman-
Cohen

Roy Assaf

Asaf Ben-Shimon

Tsahi Halevi

Sasson Gabay

Levana

Finkelstein

Florence Bloche

Maurice Benichou

Louise Portal

CREW

**Written and directed by
Producers**

Shemi Zarhin
Talia Kleinhendler
Osnat Handelsman- Keren

Martin Paul-Hus

Moshe Edri

Leon Edri

Ronald Plante

Grégoire Hetzel

Jeanne Lapoirie (AFC)

Director of Photography

Editing

Cinematography

Einat Glaser Zarhin

Daniel Scott

Orit Azoulay

Avi Avivi

Doron Ashkenazi

Maya Gerstel

Sylvain Bellamaire

Moti Hefetz

Aviv Aldema

Editing

Music

Casting

Production Design

Wardrobe

Make-up

Sound Design

Sound Recording

Mixer