

**WINNER
BEST
NARRATIVE
FEATURE**



ZERO MOTIVATION

A FILM BY TALYA LAVIE



A ZEITGEIST FILMS RELEASE

ZERO MOTIVATION



A dark comedy portraying the power struggles of three female secretaries at a remote army base in the Israeli desert during the course of one year.





SYNOPSIS

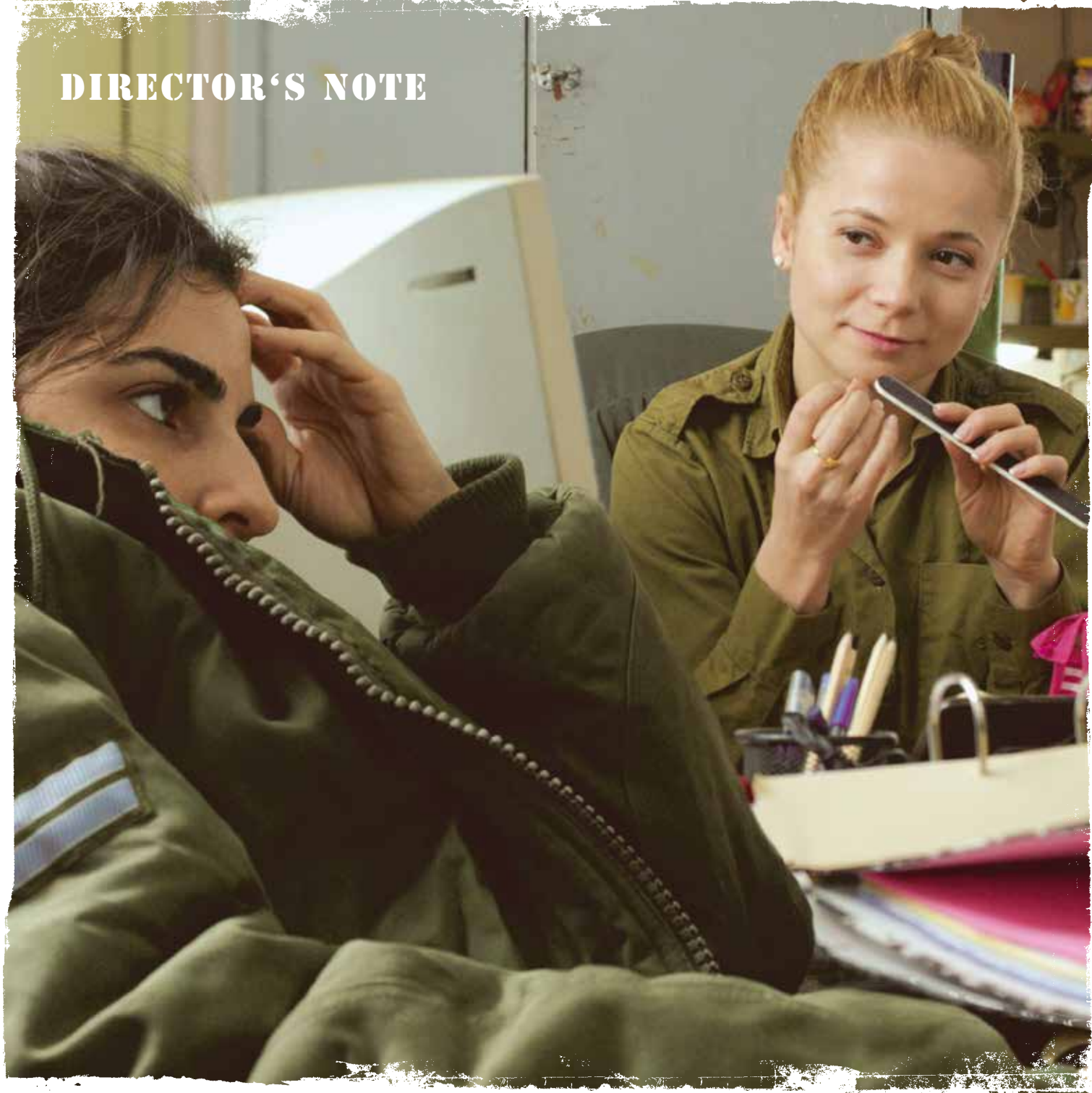
Zohar and *Daffi* are best friends serving in the same administration office at an artillery base in the south of Israel. They share a bunk bed. And since both don't really get along with others, they spend all their time together, sharing their thoughts, secrets, and passion for tabletop computer games. *Daffi* hates the secluded desert base and desperately tries to get transferred to Tel Aviv, the big city. *Zohar* doesn't seem to care much about the location; her main concern is losing her virginity. She is terrified by the possibility of being left alone without her friend in the desolated base and is willing to take action to prevent *Daffi* from leaving. One person who wouldn't mind if the two are separated is *Rama*, their highly motivated officer in charge, who fears that the counterproductive harmony of the two might indirectly hurt her chances to get promoted.

Through the story of these young women soldiers, *Zero Motivation* provides a comic-tragic glimpse into the Israeli militaristic society, depicting a real and surreal, humorous and gloomy journey inside a maze of military bureaucracy.

An administration office may be the duller and most unseen place on earth, but a staple-gun in the first act is sure to go off in the third.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE



During my mandatory military service as a secretary, I dreamed of making an army movie with the pathos and epic proportions of classic war-films, but about the gray, mundane experiences that my office mates and I had, hardly ever getting up from our chairs. Like most girls during their two years of service, we didn't risk our lives. But we were definitely in danger of dying of boredom.

I was inspired and amused by the idea of using envelopes, coffee cups, office intrigues, staple guns, and Solitaire to create a female response to the male-dominated army films genre. Israeli women may of course serve in more glamorous roles, like pilots or tank crew instructors. But I wanted to focus on us office girls, the unseen and mostly-ignored majority whose contribution is lacking any social or symbolic value.

Zero Motivation describes the everyday drama in the private lives of young women. It is about love and disappointment, dreams and fears, friendship and loneliness and finding out who you are under an absurd set of rules. I intended to use the mandatory military service – a very local aspect of the Israeli culture – as a platform to tell a universal coming of age story.

Cinematically, I wished to keep the monochromatic palette of the army base, its grey structures, crowded offices and rundown living quarters, set against the beautiful desert scenery of the south of Israel, with its warm colors, constantly changing weather and sense of freedom.









DIRECTOR'S BIO

Talya Lavie is a director, screenwriter and comics artist. She studied animation at the Bezalel Art Academy and graduated with merit from the Sam Spiegel Film School in Jerusalem. She authored screenplays for various television dramas. Her short film *Sliding Flora* screened at New York City's MoMA and in over 40 film festivals worldwide. Her thesis film *The Substitute* received several international awards, notably the Audience Award in the Berlinale, the first prize in the Munich International Short Film Festival and the first prize in the Melbourne International Film Festival. *Zero Motivation*, her first feature film, participated in the Sundance Directors and Screenwriters Lab.



CHARACTERS & BIO ACTRESSES





ZOHAR is the office Postal NCO. She is grumpy, rebellious, and sarcastic. She despises and routinely fights with her commander, Rama. Her one friend in the army base (and in the world for that matter) is Daffi. Her main concern in life is how to lose her virginity. She is secretly in love with one of the officers but never dares to talk to him.

Dana Ivgy is a well-known Israeli actress and the daughter of the famous actor *Moshe Ivgy*. Since childhood, Ivgy appeared in many television and film productions. After graduating from Nisan Nativ Acting School, she appeared in several critically acclaimed films, and in 2004 she won the Israeli Academy Award for Best Actress.



DAFFI is the „Paper & Shredding NCO“, a made-up job assigned to her since she fails the most basic secretarial duties. Fragile Daffi hates the secluded desert base and dreams of transferring to Tel Aviv. Most of her time is spent on writing letters, pleading to be re-assigned; the remainder of her time is devoted to playing Mine Sweeper at the computer with Zohar, with the ambitious goal of breaking the record on every desktop in the office.

Nelly Tagar is an Israeli stage and screen actress. She is a graduate of the Yoram Levistein Acting Studio in Tel Aviv. She participated in several Israeli television dramas and films and is a permanent cast member of the Habimah National Theatre.



RAMA is a highly motivated officer, who dreams of a lustrous military career. She is not very eloquent and gets mad too easily, especially at Zohar and Daffi, her two unmotivated subordinates, who are a bad influence on each other and whose conduct indirectly hurts her chances to be promoted.

Shani Klein is a fresh graduate of the Yoram Levinstein Acting Studio in Tel Aviv. *Zero Motivation* is her debut cinematic appearance.





CAST & CREW

CAST

*Dana Ivgy
Nelly Tagar
Shani Klein
Heli Twito
Meytal Gal
Tamara Klingon
Yonit Tobi
Yuval Segal
Elad Scemama*

CREW

*Written and
directed by:
Talya Lavie
Produced by:
Eilon Ratzkovsky
Yossi Uzrad
Guy Jacoel
Yochanan Kredo*

*Executive Producer:
Eilon Ratzkovsky
Cinematographer:
Yaron Scharf
Editor:
Arik Lahav-Leibovich
Production Designer:
Ron Zikno
Costume Designer:
Yael Kredo
Casting Director:
Orit Azulay
Original Score:
Ran Bagno
Translation to English:
Natalie Fainstein
Sound Design:
Itzik Cohen*

TECHNICAL SPECS

*Running Time/ fps:
100 min, 24fps
Shooting Format:
Digital 2K
Screening Format:
DCP
Aspect Ratio:
1:1.85
Sound Format:
SRD 5.1
Original Version:
Hebrew
Subtitles:
English*



U.S. DISTRIBUTION

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