

AMbEr FILMS prESENTs



BeyondParanoia

anti-semitism
unmasked

a MONIQUE Schwarz & BeNtzion Tidhar FiLM

Using richly layered interviews with Jewish writers, academics, journalists and communal figures, acclaimed Australian filmmaker Monique Schwarz explores the history of anti-Semitism worldwide, exposing sinister new variations of the oldest hatred.

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Film Concept

***Beyond Paranoia* is a passionate, personal and fearless exposé of the emergence in our time of the “new anti-Semitism.” It is a wake up call to all who thought, “never again”.**

Jews in the West feel safe and accepted in the havens chosen by their parents and grandparents, many of whom were survivors of the unspeakable crimes of the Holocaust. Some Western Jews have lived in their home communities for hundreds of years. Yet in recent decades a rise in violence against Jews has forced Jews everywhere to hire protection for their institutions, schools and synagogues as unprecedented waves of anti-Jewish hatred spread throughout the East and West.

This hatred is masquerading as anti-Zionism. Propaganda, half-truths and media bias have primed "politically correct" intellectuals to demonize Israel, the Jewish State. Left-wing politicians, media pundits, filmmakers, feminists, students and academics condemn Israel's response to defend itself in the name of anti-imperialism, antiracism and pacifism.

Beyond Paranoia reveals that behind this intellectual smoke-screen lurks the familiar hatred of Jews as “other”; as the Christ-killers in Christianity, as the “Monkeys and Pigs” of the Quran, and as the secret, all-powerful international conspirators pulling the strings behind banks and governments.

Beyond Paranoia fights back against these lies and accusations, It unravels the rich and complex tapestry of anti-Semitism that has been woven into human society over the centuries in both the East and West. It argues that the anti-Zionist and anti-Israel violence and hatred that we now see emanating from Islamic countries and from large sections of the West, is simply the same anti-Semitism that Jews have known for thousands of years.

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Cinematic Style

The film uses deeply researched illustrations, cartoons, paintings, films, stylized visual and poetic scenes, television and news footage and chilling, previously unseen contemporary materials from the European, Arab and Palestinian publications and media. All these vilify Jews in a manner reminiscent of the worst Nazi propaganda. The film uses the very best of documentary cinematic language to engage its audience, but is also an intellectual journey eloquently undertaken by Jewish academics, writers and researchers. Their sparkling charisma accompanies the viewer through the centuries towards the present-day social and political reality that is the new anti-Semitism.

Monique Schwarz **Writer, Producer & Director**

Biography

Monique Schwarz is a European-born independent filmmaker who lived and worked in Australia for two decades before moving to Israel. For many years she was a senior lecturer in filmmaking, film theory and history at the University of Melbourne, specializing in women's films and Australian film history. A recognized force in the Melbourne independent film scene since the 1980s, Monique has made short films, documentaries and dramas for television and cinema in Australia and around the world, and these have been screened at numerous international film festivals, including the prestigious Berlin Film Festival. Her work is also represented at Israel's Holocaust Museum, Yad Vashem.

BEYOND PARANOIA is Monique's most recent film. Other recent films include *FORGOTTEN CHILDREN*, about a group of Israeli teachers who travel to the Australian outback to teach aboriginal children to read and write English, and the widely acclaimed *MAMADRAMA; THE JEWISH MOTHER IN CINEMA*.

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Director's Statement

BEYOND PARANOIA is a strong personal statement by the director. "I was shocked by the level of emotion and hatred directed at Israel," she explains. "I was overwhelmed by the lies, fabrications and double standards applied to the Jewish State by media outlets, governments and institutions like The United Nations. With horror I realized that an alarming number of pundits, politicians and academic elites were actually proposing that Israel should not exist."

Monique's response was to begin work on a documentary that would take ten years of research and thousands of miles of travel across Europe and the United States to realize.

Selected Interviewees

Professor Robert Wistrich

Until his recent death in 2015, the renowned scholar and prolific writer Professor Robert Wistrich was head of the Vidal Sassoon Center for the study of anti-Semitism at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Many of his books have won prestigious awards, including *Socialism and the Jews*, which won the joint award of the Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism and the American Jewish Committee. *Antisemitism: The Longest Hatred* (1991) won the Jewish Quarterly-Wingate Literary Prize in the UK and later was the basis of "The Longest Hatred," a three-hour British-American TV documentary mini-series scripted by Wistrich. In *BEYOND PARANOIA* Professor Wistrich says:

"Now if we look at the Middle East we see... a form of anti-Semitism which is I would say far more aggressive and violent in its rhetoric and also in its intentions than even what we see in Europe. And is only comparable really to the kind of attitudes that prevailed before the Holocaust. What we see in the Middle East as a norm, not some kind of marginal phenomenon, is the systematic defamation, denigration and demonization of the Jews as a people, of Israel as a state of Judaism as a religion. The Jews are vipers, they're demons, they're snakes. They're the sons of apes and pigs—one of the most common slanders we hear across the Muslim world today."

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Itamar Marcus

Itamar Marcus is an Israeli political activist and researcher who is the founding director of Palestinian Media Watch, an NGO that studies Palestinian society by monitoring and analyzing the Palestinian Authority (PA) through its media and schoolbooks. Marcus has presented reports on PA, Syrian and Jordanian schoolbooks and media incitement against Israel and the Jews before members of Congress, and to members of Parliament in the EU, the United Kingdom, France, Canada and Australia. In *BEYOND PARANOIA* Itamar Marcus says:

“If it’s God and the Prophet who are saying that Jews are evil, then people have no choice but to obey. This is not something that can be questioned, it’s not something that can be discussed. It’s an assertion that comes from the highest authority, and in a very religious society like Palestinian society, it’s something that then leaves a lasting impression on adults and children.”

Professor Raphael Israeli

Professor Raphael Israeli is internationally recognized academic and author. He is professor emeritus of Middle Eastern, Islamic, and Chinese History departments at Hebrew University and a research fellow at the Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace and the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. He is also the author of over forty books and many scholarly articles in the fields of Modern Middle Eastern society, Islamic radicalism, and Islam in China and Asia. Professor Israeli has taught for 30 years at the Hebrew University and has been a visiting professor at universities in the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, and Europe. He has a Ph.D in Chinese and Islamic History from the University of California at Berkeley, and speaks Hebrew, English, French, Arabic, Chinese, Korean and Russian. In his interview for *BEYOND PARANOIA* Professor Israeli says:

“Jews in general are in their normal situation when they suffer. When they suffer that means that they are the victim and because they are the victims, because they are the suffering, they cannot make others suffer. And therefore when they see their own people, that is the Jewish people, the Israeli State, controlling others, the Palestinians, and the Palestinians suffering as a result (even though in this case Israel is defending itself), they reverse the sympathy from their own people to the others.

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Dr. Manfred Gerstenfeld

Ha'Aretz editor Anshel Pfeffer wrote in 2013 that, “Manfred Gerstenfeld is without doubt the greatest authority on anti-Semitism today.” Manfred Gerstenfeld was Chairman of the Board of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs from 2000 until 2012, where he headed the Institute for Jewish Global Affairs. He is the 2012 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Journal for the Study of Anti-Semitism. In 2015, he received the International Leadership Award from the Simon Wiesenthal Center. In *BEYOND PARANOIA* Dr. Gerstenfeld says:

“The reality is that Holocaust denial is the most common form, or the most widespread form of Holocaust abuse but it isn’t the worst. The worst form of Holocaust abuse is Holocaust inversion. The Jews, or Israel, are the new Nazis.”

Aharon Appelfeld

Aharon Appelfeld is an internationally acclaimed, prizewinning Israeli author who has written over two dozen novels as well as collections of poetry, essays and short stories. Born in the Ukraine, Appelfeld was only eight years old when his mother was murdered and he was deported with his father to a Nazi concentration camp. He escaped and hid for three years before joining the Soviet Army. After World War II, Appelfeld spent several months in a displaced persons camp in Italy before immigrating to British Mandatory Palestine in 1946. In his interview for *BEYOND PARANOIA* Aharon Appelfeld says:

“If all the media, and all the politicians... repeat day and night that there’s something wrong with you, you begin to believe in it. It’s a very strong repetition—daily declarations, false declarations. And even false declarations have power and they can destroy the common soul of the Israeli, of the Jewish people, who begin to believe it. And that is the danger.

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Tuvia Tenenbom

Tuvia Tenenbom is a theater director, playwright, author, journalist, essayist, and comic who has received higher degrees in mathematics, computer science, dramatic writing and literature. He is the author of a number of books including *I Slept in Hitler's Room*, about Germany in the year 2012, and *To Catch a Jew*, about Israel in the year 2014. Tenenbom is the founding artistic director of the Jewish Theater of New York and his political articles, cultural criticism and essays have appeared in many international media outlets including *Die Zeit* of Germany and *Yedioth Ahronot* of Israel. In his interview for *BEYOND PARANOIA* Tuvia Tenenbom says:

“... If you don't know of any other trouble spot in the world except for Israel, and you tell me it's not anti-Semitism, then either you need a psychiatrist or I need a psychiatrist. Because logic and sense it does not make.”

Hillel Neuer

Hillel C. Neuer is executive director of UN Watch, a human rights NGO in Geneva, Switzerland. He has written on law, politics and international affairs for many publications including the International Herald Tribune, *Juriste International*, *Commentary*, *The New Republic Online* and the *Christian Science Monitor*. He appears regularly before the UN Human Rights Council, intervening for a range of causes including the rape victims of Darfur, political prisoners in Cuba, and Middle East peace. He testified as an expert witness before hearings of the US Congress on UN reform in 2007 and 2011, and is regularly quoted by the *New York Times*, *Al Jazeera*, *Die Welt*, *Le Figaro*, *Reuters* and *Al Ahram*. In his interview for *BEYOND PARANOIA* Hillel Neuer said:

“...The more one knows about what happens there, (at the UN Human Rights Council) one understands that it's not human rights, principle, logic or morality but politics, the most cynical politics and dictatorships, and they go according to their interests. And that's why Syria today, even as it has killed hundreds of thousands of its own people, remains a full member of UNESCO's HUMAN rights committee.”

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Professor Phyllis Chesler

Phyllis Chesler is an American writer, psychotherapist and professor emerita of Psychology and Women's Studies at the College of Staten Island (CUNY). As a feminist psychologist she has written sixteen books, including the best seller *Women and Madness* (1972), *The New Anti-Semitism* and the most recent, *An American Bride in Kabul, A Memoir*, which is an account of her past marriage to an Afghan Moslem in Afghanistan. Chesler has also written widely for academic journals and the press on different topics such as gender issues, human rights, anti-Semitism, and honor killings in Islam.

In *BEYOND PARANOIA* Phyllis Chesler says:

“Anti-Semitism keeps finding the Jewish people. We keep running away from it and hoping for the best, and hoping for golden ages, and we try to fit in and to assimilate and we give charity and we always argue the other person’s point of view. And yet the anti-Semitism returns to haunt us.”

Dr. Mordechai Kedar

An academic, author and commentator who appears on Arabic and Western TV. Dr. Kedar is a frequent guest on Al Jazeera. He is an expert on Islam and on the history of Islam, Jews and Judaism. He has a Phd. in Arabic from the Bar Ilan University and speaks fluent Arabic, Hebrew and English.

Kedar is an Associate Professor at Bar Ilan University in the Departments of Arabic and Middle East Studies. He has also worked as an adjunct lecturer both at Tel Aviv University and Ariel College in Courses on Islam

Dr. Kedar has written many academic publications and being involved with many different international Academic Research organizations including the Herzliya Inter-Disciplinary Center, Israel and being a member of the international board of The Berlin International Center for the Study of Antisemitism (BICSA)

He says:

“The Jew hatred now is driven by the hatred towards Jews that existed in the seventh century in the Islamic world. This is something which westerners find very hard to understand and to agree that it exists at all.”

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Production Notes

Production Company

Amber Films Pty. Ltd. is an Australian based Independent film production operating since the 1980s, specializing in documentary films, with a focus on Jewish and Israeli themes. It has been supported by Australian and major international TV stations including ZDF, Artes and Channel 8 in Israel.

Key Production Team

Director/Writer/Producer - Monique Schwarz

Schwarz has written, directed and produced all of her films.

In *BEYOND PARANOIA* she was also Director of Photography.

Executive Producer - Bentzion Tidhar

Bentzion Tidhar grew up in Israel where he gained a master's degree in mathematics and physics from the Hebrew University. After his army service, he came to Australia where he started making digital films with Monique Schwarz and Amber Films. He has worked on many Amber Films productions including *FORGOTTEN CHILDREN* and *TREE OF LIFE*. For *BEYOND PARANOIA* he was the executive producer, sound recorder and security advisor.

Editor - Ryan Lifchitz

Ryan Lifchitz is an editing and directing professional from New York who has relocated to Israel. He has worked for over 15 years in the film industry and has many USA and Israel credits for documentary films, MTV, The History Channel and CBS. Currently Ryan works at Jerusalem U Productions.

Composers - Eitan Reich & Daniel Reich

This talented father-and-son team wrote and produced the haunting music for the film. Eitan Reich has played base for the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra for over thirty years, and has toured many countries with the orchestra. Daniel his son is a classical guitar virtuoso who after his studies at the Jerusalem Academy of Music & Dance, has been playing in many different competitions all over the world. He has recently returned to Israel after competing in Germany.

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Recent Events

The premiere screening of *BEYOND PARANOIA* took place in Israel at the Jerusalem Cinemateque on February 2016. The screening was held as a tribute to the late renowned scholar and expert on anti-Semitism, Professor Robert Wistrich. Present at the screening were Mrs. Danielle Wistrich and family as well as number of the film's prestigious interviewees. Academics, journalists, community professionals, educators and private guests also attended. The screening was followed by a lively Q & A with director Monique Schwarz.

In June 2016 *BEYOND PARANOIA* was viewed extensively in Australia. It played to a full house as part of the Holocaust Series of the Australian Jewish Film Festival followed by Q & A with the director, and through popular demand was screened again at a charity event at the Classic Cinema, Melbourne. The Q & A with the director that followed was chaired by the well-known Melbourne film critic and writer, Jan Epstein.

The film's director Monique Schwarz, also participated in a panel on documentary film at the Melbourne Jewish Writers' Festival, where she spoke about some of the creative aspects of making the film *BEYOND PARANOIA*.

In July 2016 the film was shown at three venues in Melbourne, Australia for the "Tisha B'Av" fast day, a national Jewish day of mourning for the persecutions and dispersions that have befallen the Jewish people.

Throughout this time *BEYOND PARANOIA* has generated a lot of press in newspapers and on internet and radio. The film has been featured in articles and programs for Arutz Sheva, the Jerusalem Post, the Jewish News Melbourne, The Age and Ynet.

Different organizations have also screened the film. UN Watch, whose Director Hillel Neuer features in the film, screened part of the film at their recent Conference at Geneva, and also posted it on their website where it received over 100,000 hits.

In the very near future, *BEYOND PARANOIA* will be distributed in USA and Canada.