

RAGE AND GLORY: THE FILMS OF ISRAELI FILMMAKER AVI NESHER

Avi Neshar's many award-winning films have been integral to Israeli cinema, placing him as one of Israel's all-time greatest filmmakers. With 20 feature films to his credit as director, his work has received prestigious awards and nominations at major international festivals and has won several Israeli Academy Awards over the last 30 years.

After spending much of his teens in New York and studying international relations at Columbia University, Neshar returned to Israel to serve in the Army Special Forces and, later, a military intelligence unit. Following four years of service and two wars, he returned to his love of cinema to make his first feature film, *The Troupe*, which became the highest-grossing Israeli film at the time and was recently voted one of the "Ten Best Israeli Feature Films of All Time" by the Israeli Film Critics Association. After the success of *Rage and Glory* (1984), producer Dino De Laurentis convinced Neshar to come to Hollywood, setting the stage for a vibrant career between Israel, Hollywood, and back to Israel, working in a wide range of genres. His work continues to be personal, affecting, and universal, yet very Israeli, in all its diversity. He stated that, "All the good Israeli movies ... were from the heart." **This partnership is supported through IU Cinema's Creative Collaborations program.**

Along with IU Cinema, this film series and Neshar's week-long visit is presented by the Olamot Center, which is housed in IU's Borns Jewish Studies Program, one of the oldest and more comprehensive programs of its kind in North America. The Olamot Center is devoted to fostering a greater awareness of Israeli culture and scholarship among IU faculty, students, and community. The Olamot Center has numerous initiatives on campus, including an Israeli visiting scholar teaching classes in Israel studies, a new IU Press book-translation series, and other Israeli guest scholars and artists, working in fields ranging from Holocaust studies to dance and theatre. More information about the Olamot Center can be found at olamot.indiana.edu. This series is sponsored by the Olamot Center, Borns Jewish Studies Program, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, and IU Cinema.



Shaanan Streett and Avi Neshar



The Wonders

The Wonders

(2013) Directed by Avi Neshar
February 18 – Monday – 7 pm
 Not rated | 2K DCP | 112 min
 In Hebrew with English subtitles
 Free, but ticketed

The Wonders focuses on the complex relationship between a Jerusalem street artist named Arnav and a mysterious, modern-day prophet held prisoner in an abandoned apartment across the alleyway. Inspired by a true story and using the city of Jerusalem as a character, *The Wonders* combines genres, moods and influences—everything from film noir

to *Alice in Wonderland*—to create a unique and compelling film that mixes mystery, comedy, psychological thriller, political intrigue, and romance. As the plot twists, loyalties shift, and revelations flow, and Arnav's life gradually becomes stranger than his art.

Jorgensen Guest Filmmaker Program Avi Neshar*

February 20 – Wednesday – 7 pm

Free, no ticket required

*Lecture takes place in Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies auditorium, located on the ground floor of the East Wing (room GA0001).

Za'am V'Tehilah (Rage and Glory)

(1984) Directed by Avi Neshar
February 21 – Thursday – 7 pm
 Not rated | 2K DCP | 118 min
 In Hebrew and English with English subtitles
 Free, but ticketed

Director Avi Neshar is scheduled to be present. Restored in 2018 by the Jerusalem Cinematheque and the Israel Film Archive, *Rage and Glory* is considered by critics the best Israeli film ever made. The film tells the story of an avowed anarchist, Eddy the Butcher, and a hitman who is sent to Jerusalem to plot the assassination of a senior

British officer. Eddy's arrival creates tension within the already troubled group as the British counter-terrorist operatives are closing in. In speaking about the debate over the film, Avi Neshar stated, "If you take the controversy over the 2017 film *Foxtrot* and multiply it by a thousand, this is the magnitude of the reaction in 1984." **Contains mature content.**

The Other Story

(2018) Directed by Avi Neshar
February 22 – Friday – 7 pm
 Not rated | 2K DCP | 112 min
 In Hebrew with English subtitles
 Free, but ticketed

Director Avi Neshar is scheduled to be present. In this moving family drama—interspersed with exuberant comedic moments—Yonatan returns to Israel after being in the U.S. for years. This is at the request of his father, a marriage counsellor who wants him to join

his practice. He is also scheming with Yonatan's ex-wife to get him to keep their daughter from marrying a semi-famous pop star, Shacar, who recently converted from playboy to devoted Hasid. No one believes Shacar's reformation, but Yonatan is reluctant to meddle in his daughter's affairs. Avi Neshar artfully unveils complex characters who wrestle with the balance between protecting their children and knowing when to let go.

SHE

(1984) Directed by Avi Neshar
February 22 – Friday – 10 pm
 Not rated | 35mm | 106 min
 Free, but ticketed

Director Avi Neshar is scheduled to be present. Before Avi Neshar spent time in Hollywood making genre films, he adapted the H. Rider Haggard novel *SHE* for Transworld Pictures, which he shot in Italy. In a post-apocalyptic, backward

world leftover from an event called The Cancellation, SHE (Sandahl Bergman) becomes the leader of a rogue nation in which men are second-class citizens. SHE decides to help two men rescue their sister, kidnapped by a local tribe. Along the way, they have to face all manners of bizarre obstacles, including werewolves in togas, a tutu-wearing giant, and other outlandish mutants. **Contains mature content.**

Additional Avi Neshar Films: Past Life*

(2016) Directed by Avi Neshar
February 13 – Wednesday – 7 pm
 Free, but reservations required: <http://iub.libcal.com/calendar/screening-room>.

*Screening takes place in the IU Libraries Moving Image Archive Screening Room in the Herman B Wells Library.



Za'am V'Tehilah (Rage and Glory)



Past Life



The Other Story