



Presents

FOXTROT

A film by Samuel Maoz

113 mins, Israel, 2017

Language: Hebrew with English subtitles

Official Selection:

Venice Film Festival 2017 (Grand Jury Prize Award – Silver Lion)

Telluride Film Festival 2017

Toronto Int'l Film Festival 2017

Distribution



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CAST

Michael	Lior Ashkenazi
Dafna	Sarah Adler
Jonathan	Yonatan Shiray
Squad Commander	Gefen Barkai
Soldier Rolling Cans	Dekel Adin
Soldier With Headphones	Shaul Amir
Dancer Soldier	Itay Exlroad
Official Military Officer	Danny Isserles
Religion Officer	Itamar Rotschild
Military M.D.	Roi Miller
High Ranking Officer	Arie Tchner
Avigdor, Michael's Brother	Yehuda Almagor
Alma	Shira Haas
Michael's Mother	Karin Ugowski

FILMMAKERS

Writer & Director	Samuel Maoz
Producers	Michael Weber Viola Fügen Eitan Mansuri Cedomir Kolar Marc Baschet Michel Merkt
Co-Producers	Jonathan Doweck Jamal Zeinal Zade
Associate Producers	Meinolf Zurhorst Olivier Père Rémi Burah Dan Wechsler Jim Stark
First Assistant Director	Adin Wiener
Line Producer	Dorissa Berninger
Director of Photography	Giora Bejach
Editors	Arik Lahav Leibovich Guy Nemesh Alex Claude
Sound Design & Music Direction	
Sound Mixer	Samuel Cohen
Re-recording Mixer	Ansgar Frerich
Original Score	Ophir Leibovitch Amit Poznansky
Production Designer	Arad Sawat
Costume Designer	Hila Bargiel
Makeup Artist	Barbara Kreuzer
Casting Director	Chamutal Zerem

SYNOPSIS

Michael and Dafna are devastated when army officials show up at their home to announce the death of their son Jonathan. While his sedated wife rests, Michael spirals into a whirlwind of anger only to experience one of life's unfathomable twists, which rival the surreal military experiences of his son.

COMMENTS FROM WRITER-DIRECTOR

SAMUEL MAOZ

Einstein said that coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous. Foxtrot is a dance of a man with his fate. It's a philosophical parable trying to deconstruct this vague concept called ›fate‹ through a story about father and son. They are far from each other, but despite the distance and the total separation between them they change each other's fate, and of course their fates. The challenge I set for myself was to deal with the gap between the things we control and those that are beyond our control.

I chose to build my story as a classic Greek tragedy in which the hero creates his own punishment and fight against anyone who tries to save him. He is obviously unaware of the outcome that his action will bring about.

On the contrary, he is doing something that seems right and logical to do. And that's the difference between a casual coincidence and a coincidence that looks like a plan of fate. Chaos is settled. The punishment corresponds to the sin in its exact form. There is something classic and circular in this process. And there is also an irony that is always associated with fate. A structure of a Greek tragedy in three sequences seemed to me like an ideal dramatic platform to deliver my idea.

I wanted to tell a story that would be relevant to the crooked reality in which I, and we, live. A story with a relevant statement – local and universal. A story about two generations – the second generation of the Holocaust survivors and the third generation – and each of them experienced trauma during his army service. Part of this endless traumatic situation was forced upon us and part of it could have been avoided. A drama about a family that breaks apart and reunites. A conflict between love and guilt; love that copes with extreme emotional pain. And as in my previous film, Lebanon, I wanted to continue to investigate, in an intensive manner that combines criticism and compassion, a human dynamic created in a closed unit. The film has a shot where you see a screen of a laptop with a notice of mourning and next to it a bowl with oranges. This frame is the story of my country in four words – oranges and dead soldiers.

When my eldest daughter went to high school, she never woke up on time, and in order not to be late she would ask me to call for a taxi. This habit cost us quite a bit of money, and it seemed to me like a bad education. One morning I got mad and told her to take the bus like everyone else. And if that's why she'd be late, then she'd be late. Maybe she should learn the hard way to wake up in time. Her bus was line 5. Half an hour after she left, I see in a news site that a terrorist blew himself up in line 5, and that dozens of people were killed. I called her but the cellular operator collapsed because of the unexpected load. Half an hour later, she returned home. She was late for the bus that exploded. She saw him leave the station and took the next bus. And I'm still considered lucky because I have girls ...

ABOUT SAMUEL MAOZ

Was born in Tel Aviv in 1962. At 13, he received an 8mm movie camera and a roll of film. He wanted to recreate a gunfight scene he had seen in a western and set his camera on the tracks of an approaching train. It got smashed to smithereens. However, by 18, he had already made dozens of films. As a young soldier he was part of a tank crew. He trained as a gunner, firing at barrels of fuel that exploded like fireworks. It felt like a Luna Park game. Only when war broke out in June 1982, did he learn the horrors of being a gunner. In 1987 he completed his cinema studies, but it took him 20 years more to finally create his first feature film, LEBANON. He has worn a suit only twice in his life: on his Bar- Mitzva, and when he won the Golden Lion award in Venice for LEBANON. Eight years later he wrote and directed his second film, FOXTROT.

2009: LEBANON Feature

2005: THE INSUFFERABLE LIGHTNESS Documentary TV

1999: THE KING LIVES TV Drama

**ABOUT SARAH ADLER
(DAFNA)**

A French and Israeli actress. She is best known for film roles in JELLYFISH directed by Etgar Keret and Shira Geffen; STONES, directed by Raphael Nadjari; OUR MUSIC, directed by Jean-Luc Godard; and MARIE ANTOINETTE by Sofia Coppola. Sarah was nominated for a European Film Award for Best Actress for her performance in OUR MUSIC, and an Ophir Award for Best Actress for her performance in JELLYFISH, which won the Cannes Film Festival's Caméra d'or. More recently, she collaborated twice with Amos Gitai in his films ANA ARABIA and TSILI. In 2015, the film AYA, in which Sarah Adler played the title role, was nominated in the short film category at the Oscars.

**ABOUT LIOR ASHKENZAI
(MICHAEL)**

An award-winning Israeli screen, television, and stage actor. He was recently acclaimed for his performance as Micha Eshel, Israeli Diplomat and Prime Minister whose fate is linked inextricably with that of the title character in Joseph Cedar's NORMAN: The Moderate Rise and Tragic Fall of a New York Fixer.

Ashkenazi became one of Israel's biggest stars after his performance as "Zaza" in Dover Kashashvili's LATE MARRIAGE (2001). He won the Ophir (Israeli Academy Award) for Best Actor for LATE MARRIAGE, FOOTNOTE, and FOXTROT, and was nominated for RUTENBERG (2003, Best Supporting Actor) and WALK ON WATER (2004, Best Actor).

His other films include: GIFT FROM ABOVE; SIMA VAKNIN WITCH; THE BUBBLE; MELAH HA-ARETZ; WILD DOGS; HELLO, GOODBYE; ELI & BEN; ULTIMATUM, RABIES, YOSSI, BIG BAD WOLVES; THE DUNE; ENCIRCLEMENTS, and as Uriel Shkolnik, a Talmudic scholar with a complicated relationship with his fellow scholar father, in Joseph Cedar's FOOTNOTE. This year Ashkenazi finished shooting THE WANDERERS.

Ashkenazi also appeared in a season of the series "In Therapy," the Israeli series that was remade in the U.S. as "In Treatment." Some of his other TV credits includes: "Shabatot VeHagim," "Ha-Emet Ha'Eroma," "Adama," "The Missionary," "Good Family," "Hazoref," and "The Exchange Principle."

Ashkenazi was born in Ramat Gan, Israel, where he studied acting at Beit Zvi School for Performing Arts. After graduating in 1994, he starred in many plays at Habima and Beit Lessin Theatres in Tel Aviv and the Beersheba Theater in Beersheba.