PRESENTS

FLAWLESS

BY SHARON MAYMON & TAL GRANIT

INTERNATIONAL PRESS KIT
Cast

Eden
Tigist
Keshet
Meir
Itay
Abigail
Keren

Stav Strashko
Netsanet Zenaneh Mekonnen
Noam Lugasy
Micha Selektor
Arad Triffon Roshef
Niv Sultan
Asi Levy

Crew

Directed by
Screenplay by
Produced by
Produced by
Casting
Director of Photography
Line Producer
Set Design
Costume Design
Makeup Design
Editor
Music Supervisor
Original score

Sharon Maymon, Tal Granit
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Pie Films, United King Films, Pallas Film
Osnat Handelsman Keren, Taha Kleinendler, Moshe Edery, Leon Edery, Thanassis Karathanos, Martin Hampel
Hila Yuval
Giora Bejach
Zehava Shekel
Elhad Gutterman
Laura Shaim
Ziv Katanov
Einat Glaser Zarhin
Aviv Aldema
Ivri Lider
LOGLINE
From the filmmakers of THE FAREWELL PARTY comes another timely and sensitive stroke of genius. A poignant and profound story about race, gender and social prejudice.

SYNOPSIS
Eden, a 17-year-old high school student discovers that her two best friends are planning to sell their kidneys to pay for cosmetic surgery and a dress for prom. Eden, who is secretly a trans woman, realizes that this may be the answer to her prayers. She joins the others on their journey to Kiev to exchange their kidneys for the flawless body of their dreams. Their trip does not go as planned and when Eden’s secret is exposed, all three of them need to come to terms with the prejudices they have and redefine who they really want to be in this world.

DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT
“One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman” Simone de Beauvoir

FLAWLESS focuses on issues related to gender identity and body image. What determines our gender identity? Is it our external appearance that shapes us or our hidden, inner selves? And what role does society play in forming our image and the gender roles that we assume?

We live in an age when almost everything takes place on social media and through cellphone screens; when image takes on an extremely central value and the gap between image and reality is blurred. In the chaos of images, Eden’s inner, strong and authentic will stands out. Eden is the lead character of the film and a transgender teenager girl who is guided by her inner truth.

It is thanks to this inner truth that we knew that we would only cast a transgender woman for the lead. For one year we met with transgender women and worked with them on scenes from the script in search of the right actress for the film. During casting we read an article in Teen Vogue in which Stav Strasiko talked about the process she underwent before coming out as a transgender woman. In our initial encounter with Stav, who portrays the character of Eden, we had a read through of the script. Stav read Eden’s role with tears in her eyes. It was infectious. There were moments during the work that Stav and Eden were one and the same. The dialogues uttered by Stav weren’t strange to her and Eden’s character came to life in a way one can only dream of.

The plot takes place in Israel 2018; high school proms are sweeping the nation, perhaps confirmation that the Americanization process is complete. It is at the prom that our protagonists encounter racism, unacceptance of the other and a polarized Israeli society.

In our previous films we focused on breaking through social barriers and in FLAWLESS we continue to develop the theme whereby the other is perceived as threatening in the current social order.

BIOGRAPHY AND FILMOGRAPHY DIRECTOR
Sharon Maymon and Tal Granit have been working together for fifteen years. They co-wrote and co-directed five films amongst them: THE FAREWELL PARTY which won the audience award at the Venice Film Festival and was distributed worldwide, SUMMER VACATION premiered at the Sundance Film Festival 2013 and was selected for the Oscars’ long list for Live Action Short Film and TO KILL A BUMBLEBEE which premiered at the Locarno Film Festival and won prizes around the world.

Sharon Maymon co-wrote the 2019 Oscar winning short film SKIN with Guy Nattiv (based on Sharon Maymon’s original idea and directed by Guy Nattiv). He co-wrote with Dany Cohen-Solal and co-directed with Erez Tadamor the film A MATTER OF SIZE which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival and won the audience award at Karlovy Vary Film Festival.

BIOGRAPHY AND FILMOGRAPHY PRODUCERS
Osnat Handelsman-Koren and Talia Kleinhendler of Pie Films. They recently produced 2019 Berlin Golden Bear winner SYNONYMS by Nadav Lapid as well as THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER starring Maggie Gyllenhaal (winner Sundance Directors Award 2018).

This titles are among a roster of multiple award-winning films that have premiered in Cannes, Venice, Berlin, Toronto, Sundance etc.

Thanassis Karathanos studied political science and economics in Athens and Berlin. In 1998 he founded the film production company TWENTY TWENTY VISION in Berlin and in 2003 the production company PALLAS FILM in Halle (Saale). He is producing numerous international films which are celebrating festival and cinema successes worldwide. He is a member of the European and German Film Academy.

BIOGRAPHY AND FILMOGRAPHY CAST

Stav Strashko
Born September 24, 1992 in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine, and raised in Israel. She currently resides in Tel Aviv. She is a transgender international model and actress. Stav made history in 2018 when she was nominated for best actress for the movie FLAWLESS. She is the first transgender woman nominated for best actress in Israel.

Fashion Shows: Stav has been working in fashion since the age of 16, walking the runway for leading designers and brands such as MARC JACOBS, VIVIENNE WESTWOOD, THOM BROWNE, MONCLER, DKNY.

Campaigns (worldwide): She has starred in international campaigns for DIESEL, CAROLINA HERRERA 212 FRAGRANCE, SISLEY, TOYOTA and the famous WIX campaign in NY with zero gravity project.

Stav has been featured in prominent Magazines such as Vogue US, Teen Vogue, Grazia UK- cover, Elle Italy, Elle US, Document magazine with Terry Richardson.

TV/Movies prior to her breathtaking leading role in FLAWLESS, her acting career was in Israeli TV series BLUE NATALIE (TV Series) and Israeli indie film SHABLULIM RAGESHEM, she was the audiences darling in Big Brother VIP Israel.

Netsanet Z. Mekonnen
Netzanet is an upcoming star in Israeli theater, TV and Film.

She received acclaim for her role Susan in the Israeli version of David Mamet’s RACE and her roles in plays A RIGHTIOUS MAN, RAINBOW CHILD.

Her filmography includes Tribeca winner ZERO MOTIVATION, and Israeli TV shows MOTHER’S ANGEL and ZAGURY EMPIRE.

Noam Lugasi
At the young age of 23 Noam is already a highly regarded actress with roles in Israel’s leading Films and TV shows. Her latest film was in Golden Lion winner FOXTROT by Shmolik Maoz. She received rave reviews for her role Hagar in TV series THE HAREM by Gadi Taub and Marco Carmel and in TV series MERMAIDS.

Asi Levy
Israel's biggest and most acclaimed film star, with a career of multiple award winning films and TV shows. Among her many awards she is the Israeli film academy winner for her role in Shemi Zarhin’s AVIVA MY LOVE, Israeli TV academy winner for her role in Haigai Levi’s IN TREATMENT and European Film Academy winner for her role in Raphael Nadjari’s AVANIM.

PRODUCTION COMPANIES

PIE FILMS | Selected Filmography:

2019:

FLAWLESS, written & directed by Sharon Maymon & Tal Granit. Official Selection Tribeca IFF 2019 (co-production Israel, Germany).

2018:
THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER, written & directed by Sara Colangelo. US Dramatic competition Sundance Film Festival 2018.


2016:

HOME PORT, directed by Erez Tadmore, written by Erez Tadmore & Shlomo Efrati Official selection Haifa IFF 2016.

FROM THE DIARY OF A WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER, written & directed by Nadav Lapid. Critiques Week special presentation, Cannes Film Festival 2016.

DARK SIDE, directed by Natalie Assouline Terhilo (Documentary).

2015 Releases:


2014 Releases:


2013 Releases:

BETHLEHEM, written and Directed by Yuval Adler (co-production Israel, Belgium, Germany).Winner 6 Israeli academy awards including Best Film 2013. Winner Best Film, Best Actor Haifa IFF 2013, Winner Fedeora award.
PALLAS FILM

WORLD SALES BETA CINEMA
BETA CINEMA has established itself as a world sales and co-financing company for quality feature films that combine commercial viability with artistic integrity. Affiliated with Jan Mojto’s Beta Film, a major European media group, BETA CINEMA’s theatrical footprint ranges from Oscar® winners to worldwide B.O. hits like THE LIVES OF OTHERS, THE COUNTERFEITERS, IL DIVO or DOWNFALL.

A current highlight is the two-times Academy Award nominated NEVER LOOK AWAY (Best Foreign Language Film, Best Cinematography) by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, director of Oscar-winner THE LIVES OF OTHERS. Further highlights include THE KEEPER by Marcus H. Rosenmüller, the true story of legend Bert Trautmann, which is scheduled for wide releases in the UK, Australia & New Zealand, Italy, Japan and others, and the 2019 Berlinale Silver Bear-winner SYSTEM CRASHER, a directorial debut by Nora Fingscheidt.

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