



# IMAGINE of VICTORY

A film by **Adi Mishnayot**



## IMAGE OF VICTORY

Directed & Produced by **Adi Mishnayot**

29 minutes | 2019 | Israel

Language: Hebrew | Subtitles: English, French

Cinematography **Adi Mishnayot, Ze'ev Girsh**

Edited by **Ido Chen**

Sound Design **Keren-Or Biton**

Color Grading **Ron Ben-Meir**

Music by **Gal Lev**

Art Design **Yoav Weinfeld**

[Trailer](#) | [Web page](#)

## LOGLINE

During the 2014 Gaza war, Uri, a wounded Israeli soldier finds himself unwillingly turned into a war hero. An insider's look at how war as a state-of mind is shaping Israeli society.

## SYNOPSIS

2014. Israel is at war in Gaza again. Uri, an Israeli soldier, is wounded in battle and rushed to the hospital. There, with his worried parent at his bedside, he finds himself unwillingly turned into a war hero - receiving visits by army generals, celebrities, veterans, and hundreds of well-intentioned Israelis, all paying their respects and expecting him to act the part. Following the director's family's personal hardship turned into a public spectacle, the film offers an insider's look into Israeli society and what war as a state-of-mind can do to a nation.



## AWARDS

CINEMED Montpellier film festival 2020 - **Grand Prize** for a short film

Jerusalem film festival 2019 – **Best Documentary Short**

Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival 2019 – **Best Film, Audience Award**

Israeli Documentary Film Awards 2019 – **Best Student Film**

Joyce Forum San Diego Jewish Film Festival 2020 – **Best Documentary**

Warsaw Jewish Film Festival 2020 – **Best Documentary Short**

Nominated for the Israeli Oscars is Documentary under 60 minutes 2020



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

On the 25th of July 2014, something horrible happened. My younger brother, Uri, was shot and wounded in the third Gaza War. My parents and I rushed to the hospital, fearful for the state of his leg and bracing ourselves for the long recovery process ahead. However when we got there, we discovered we were not alone, and that dealing with his injury was not his only duty either. Overnight, Uri was turned into a war hero but countless visitors in the hospital. Following my family in this traumatic time turned public event, I tried to tell our side of that story.

In Israel, since military service is mandatory, many families who are opposed to the occupation of the Palestinian territories still have their sons drafted. This was also the case with my parents, who were forced to face a new reality, in which their sons' pain was used as proof for the justification of a war that goes against everything they believe in, thus creating many absurd and cringe-worthy interactions.

Because the film's main characters are the people closest to me, I knew exactly when to turn the camera and catch their most subtle reactions. This intimacy with the characters allowed me to give up formal storytelling approaches such as voice-over or interviews. Instead, I wanted to let the viewer experience the situations as we did, in the rawest and most unfiltered way.

To fully realize the rapture between the Israeli national perceptions and their reality, I used real-life footage from Uri's battalion deployment in Gaza and his actual moment of injury. Obtaining this exclusive footage and managing to exhibit it in the film was crucial to me, because it's the only time we see what the war that is being discussed is actually doing to the other side, as well as to the Israeli young men that have to take part in it. These are the sights and sounds that are repressed and ignored by everyone in the hospital and Israeli society in general.

In a way, I tried to tell a story of silence. To examine how the things we try to ignore and deny, ultimately shape us as a society, and how the same notions of brotherhood and solidarity that make a nation strong and unified, could also turn it blind to the consequences of its own actions, and to the possibility of striving for change.

## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Adi Mishnayot is a writer, director and producer based in Tel Aviv, Israel. Born in 1988, she grew up in Kiryat Tivon, a suburban town in the north of Israel. She studied film at the Steve Tisch School of Film and Television at Tel Aviv University where she took part in many productions. In 2014 Adi was part of the planning committee of the Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival.

Image of Victory, her debut short documentary, has won multiple awards in Israeli including a nomination for the Israeli Oscars, as well as the grand prize for a short film at CINEMED, France. Adi is currently working on a fiction film.



# CREDITS

## **Writer, Director, Producer**

Adi Mishnayot

## **Editor**

Ido Chen

## **With**

Uri Mishnayot  
Itzik Mishnayot  
Hadas Wiseman  
Aner Shofty  
Ido Elkabetz

## **Cinematography**

Adi Mishnayot  
Ze'ev Girsh

## **Additional Photography** Ido Elkabetz,

Ariella Abramoff

## **Additional Editing** Gal Shani,

Gal Rosenbluth

## **Artistic Advisor**

Maya Zinshtein

## **Film School Advisor**

Amir Tausinger

## **Sound Designer** Keren-Or Bitton

**Effect Editing** Idan Rawet

**Jaffa Sound** Arts

## **Original Music** Gal Lev

**Colorist** Ron Ben-Meir

**Studio Manager** Maya Ben-Meir

**Studio** ColoRon

**Graphic Design** Yoav Wienfeld

**Subtitles** CapNsub

Ran Cohen

Oren Yardeni

## **The New Israeli Fund for Cinema and Television**

**General Director** Dorit Inbar

**Production Manager** Orel Turner

**Artistic Director** Ron Goldman

**International Relations** Irit Shimrat

**Office Coordinator** Maytal Krupnik

## **The Steve Tisch School of Film and Television Staff**

Raz Yosef, Joseph Pitchhadze, Yaron Bloch,  
Amir Tausinger, Liat Orlovitch, Liraz Oren, Miri  
Elkahal, Racheli Goldi, Moshe Zer, Nili Yavniel,  
Liviu Carmely, Irit Lan, Rachel Menashe, Eti  
Tsicko, David Ron

## **Thanks**

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Ze'ev Girsh

Jasmin Tenenbaum

Alex Khosid

Tal Levy

Avner Gvaryahu

Noa Landau

Noga Shlomi

Yoav Wienfeld

Ma'ayan Hagage

Ram Shefa

Maya Klar

Shai Skiff

Yinon Be'eri

Matan Sandler

Eti Tsick

Marina Maximilian Blumin

Rona Kenan

Maya Zinshtien

Tomer Heymann

Assaf Lapid

Ari Folman

Avi Parsha

Mom and Dad

And to Uri, my brother, and a hero

THE FILM WAS PRODUCED WITH THE  
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SPORT - THE ISRAELI FILM COUNCIL

## JURY STATEMENTS

"Image of Victory is a complex and intimate look at a family hardship caught in the public eye. The private story raises questions about the glorification of war and the delicate border between compassion and the lack of it."

- **Jerusalem film festival**

"Between the personal and the political, the filmmaker following her family manages to deconstruct the glorification of war and offers an ironic point of view on the Israeli 'Image of Victory'.

- **Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival**

"...The documentary provides a shocking reality check with actual footage of the battle up to the moment of Uri's injury. We also get a glimpse into what the war is doing to the other side. The filmmaker uses raw footage to tell the story without use of voiceovers or interviews. A few brief intertitles introduce and conclude the film. As troves of well-wishers visit Uri during his hospital stay, the camera poignantly captures the emotional response of Uri's family and also a glimpse of how war, as a state-of-mind, is shaping Israeli society. The filmmaker has expertly given the audience an honest and intimate view of how ongoing conflict impacts life in Israel."

- **Joyce Forum Jewish Short Film Festival**

## FROM THE PRESS

In English

[MDFF 2020 - Interview with the director of Image of Victory](#) // We Are Moving Stories

Israeli Press

["To capture the intimate moment, the moment it is turned public"](#) // Haaretz, national newspaper

["Her brother was injured in "Protective Edge" and she made a short and unique film"](#) // Xnet Laisha Magazine

["Image of Victory – Following a soldier wounded in Protective Edge"](#) // The Night News with Romi Noimark

["Image of Victory – a film by Adi Mishnayot"](#) // Morning World interview

## FILM CRITICS

"As a documentary, it is a masterpiece of text versus subtext. It is also one of the most Israeli films I have ever seen. A concentrated capsule of everything that's crazy and absurd in this ongoing experiment called the State of Israel and most of us take for granted... It seems like there's not one archetypal character from Israeli society who missed to pay the soldier a visit, and when the camera is pointed at the end of each of those crazy moments to his reactions and especially the parents' reactions is simply priceless. The situation is charming and heartwarming just as it is disturbing. There were moments that I burst into laughter of embarrassment that then immediately turned into tears of sadness and pain out of identification."

- ["A masterpiece of text and subtext"](#) // Oron Shamir, Srita.net

"Image of Victory" by Adi Mishnayot already won an award at the Tel Aviv International Student Festival a month ago, and has picked a trophy at Jerusalem Film Festival as well, and rightly so... The film manages to operate on both the emotional and intellectual levels. It has an irony about the absurdity it reveals, but the bitter humor of it does not lead to a sophisticated alienation, nor does it detract from its ability to evoke emotion... What resonates, is a snapshot, taken with a slight irony that offers numerous open and relevant questions – which will, unfortunately, probably all still be relevant in Israel in the foreseeable future as well. A movie for the Pantheon."

- ["A film for the Pantheon"](#) // Avner Shavit, Walla! News

## CONTACT INFO

### Adi Mishnayot

Writer & Director

Email: [adimishnayot@gmail.com](mailto:adimishnayot@gmail.com)

Tel: +972 52 8270980

### Eti Tsicko

Industry Relations

The Steve Tisch School of Film & TV

Tel Aviv University

Email: [etitsicko@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:etitsicko@tauex.tau.ac.il)

Tel: + 972 3 6405698

Cell: + 972 54 4461379



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School of Film and Television  
The Yolanda and David Katz  
Faculty of the Arts  
Tel Aviv University



The Blavatnik  
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