

## WIP B - Echoes



**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN :** Israel

**GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME :** Drama | Suspense | DCP 2K | Hebrew | 90 mins

**DIRECTORS :**

Amikam KOVNER  
Assaf SNIR

**PRODUCERS:**

Keren MICHAEL  
Yoni PARAN

**WIP GOALS :**

Funds, Sales agents, Pre-sales, Festival Screening

**PRODUCTION COST :**

US\$650,000

**DIRECTORS' FILMOGRAPHY :**

Amikam KOVNER  
2016 *Fatherland*  
2014 *Haven*  
2008 *The Home Leave*

Assaf SNIR  
2012 *The 10th Man*  
2011 *Under the Skin*  
2009 *Caravan*

## ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

A man suspects his wife is having an affair. He records her phone calls. When she is killed in an accident, all he is left with is her recorded voice.

## SYNOPSIS

Avner (45) suspects his wife Ella (42) is having an affair. Being the man he is, an engineer, a man of reason and hard facts - he needs to know before he takes action. So he secretly records her telephone conversations, turning into a spy in his own house. Following Ella's sudden death in a car accident, Avner searches for her lover's identity, listening to the tapes again and again. He becomes more and more engrossed with the investigation instead of being there for his children, Daphne (12) and Omer (9). But while searching for one thing, he discovers another: The woman he listens to is a stranger to him, so very different from the one he thought he knew. He tries to understand that woman, to decode their relationship, and most of all he needs to know: Why? He follows the footsteps she left behind her, in a journey that will finally lead him to her lover, Micah (45). But the confrontation with Micah does not offer any sort of resolution for Avner. On the contrary – the more he knows, the less he understands. Avner returns to the tapes, hearing Ella's voice for one last time. He is willing to forgive now, he can let her go. He will have to accept the void she left inside him.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

*Echoes* is a film about love, although it is disguised as a detective story. Underneath the mystery-like plot and the atmosphere of suspense (listening, tracking, cross-cues, revenge), the real enigma the film seeks to explore is that of Avner's relationship with his wife, Ella. Our film is about a man who loses his wife, but this loss enables him for the first time to truly know her.

Avner's journey towards a new understanding of his wife, and who she really was is, in fact, a journey between two opposite worlds. On the one end – Avner's world: rational, factual, certain, cause and effect. On the other end – Ella's world: emotional, intuitive, sensual, and uncertain.

The tension between those two conflicting worlds is very much present in visual imagery of the film, specifically the point where those two conflicting collide: Man-made vs nature. The geometric vs organic. Order vs disorder.

This tension is also present in Avner's workplace, the highway tunnel he digs through the mountain. It is a place of constant struggle between man and nature, between heavy machinery and the earth itself. The tunnel is obviously a metaphor for revealing what was hidden, for the act of exposing. But it is also a passage. A journey from one place to the other. From his world, to hers.

By the end of his journey Avner is a changed man. In her absence Ella has changed him. But the tragedy is that when he finally understands her, she is no longer there.

## DIRECTORS

### Amikam KOVNER

Director and screenwriter, and a graduate of Tel Aviv University's Film Department. His short film, *Scar* (2005), was screened in dozens of film festivals, sold to PBS network in the US, and won the Kodak Award for excellence. His thesis film, *The Home Leave* (2008), was screened at numerous festivals and won awards and honorable mention.

His documentary, *First Kiss* (2006), was broadcast on Israel's channel 2. His debut feature film *Haven* (2014) was premiered at the Moscow Film Festival 2014.

### **Assaf SNIR**

Director and screenwriter who graduated from the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School-Jerusalem in 2011. During his studies, Snir wrote and directed three short films, which have been screened at local and international film festivals. In 2009, Snir was selected as a participant of "Breaking Boundaries," an international short film project funded by the Goethe institute and EVZ Stiftung, and in 2013 he participated in "Script Station," the Berlinale Talent Campus's script development workshop. *Echoes* will be Snir's first feature film.

### **PRODUCERS**

#### **Keren MICHAEL**

Michael is handling project's development and financing. Recent credits include nomination for Cannes with *Self Made* (2014) by Shira Geffen and *The Wanderer* (2010) by Avishai Sivan. Under DMP she was handling Israeli blockbusters as *Galis - the Journey for Astra* (2014), and fantasy all family film *Abulele* (2015). Next films to be produced - *Let it be morning* (2017), a cinematic adaptation to Sayed Kashua's novel, written and to be directed by Eran Kolirin - co production with Film du poisson – France; and *The Non-conformists* (2017) by Eliran Malca, a political drama about the election campaigns for the first religious political party in Israel.

#### **Yoni PARAN**

Founder and producer has over 15 years' experience in production and media industry. Majoring in top end series, and daily drama. Recent credits includes: 4 seasons of the TV series *Avoda Aravit* (aka *Arab labor*) and *The Writer*, for Keshet Tv and Channel 1 which was premiered at the Drama Series Days, Berlin Film Festival 2016. Both TV series had been written by Sayed Kashua. Paran also produced international TV hits such as *Split* and *NY*.

### **PRODUCTION COMPANY**

#### **Dori Media Paran**

Dori Media Group is an international group of media companies that produces, distributes and broadcasts TV and New Media. In 2013, the company established a feature films division under Dori Media Paran, which develops and promotes film authors, in a spirit of quality meeting commercially viable content.