

THE RETURN FROM THE OTHER PLANET

A film by Assaf Lapid



POSTER DESIGN: YARA REMBIZOWSKI

With Sharon Alexander as Yehiel De-Nur Script by Assaf Lapid, Naomi Levari, Saar Yogev Cinematographers Talia (Tulik) Galon, Jörg Adams
Editors Nohar Avigail Haseen, Assaf Lapid Animation Supervisor Alon Levi Designer Yoav Brill Music by Moshe Baavour
Sound Designer Aviv Aldema Producers Saar Yogev, Naomi Levari, Guy Hodes, Michael Reuter, Harry Flöter, Jörg Siepmann Directed by Assaf Lapid

A Black Sheep Production

40.FILMFEST
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THE RETURN FROM THE OTHER PLANET

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Produced by Saar Yogev, Naomi Levvari, Guy Hodes

Michael Reuter, Harry Flöter, Jörg Siepmann

Documentary / 81 Minutes

Hebrew, English, Dutch, Yiddish

Color / 1.90 / Israel, Germany

Ka.tzetnik lived a life of secrecy, becoming a myth. Rumors suggested that he writes all night, donning his Auschwitz uniform and that he never leaves his house despite his books selling millions.

The film explores the writer's personal odyssey in coping with his trauma through the unconventional path of LSD.



SYNOPSIS

Yehiel De-Nur lived a life shrouded in secrecy, concealing his identity behind the pseudonym Ka.tzetnik. The books he wrote sold millions of copies and shaped the way readers worldwide imagined the Holocaust.

Despite attempts by reporters and researchers to uncover his true identity, he remained elusive. The rumors claimed that he writes all night long, in complete solitude, wearing his prisoner uniform from Auschwitz and burning his manuscripts by morning - turning him into a myth.

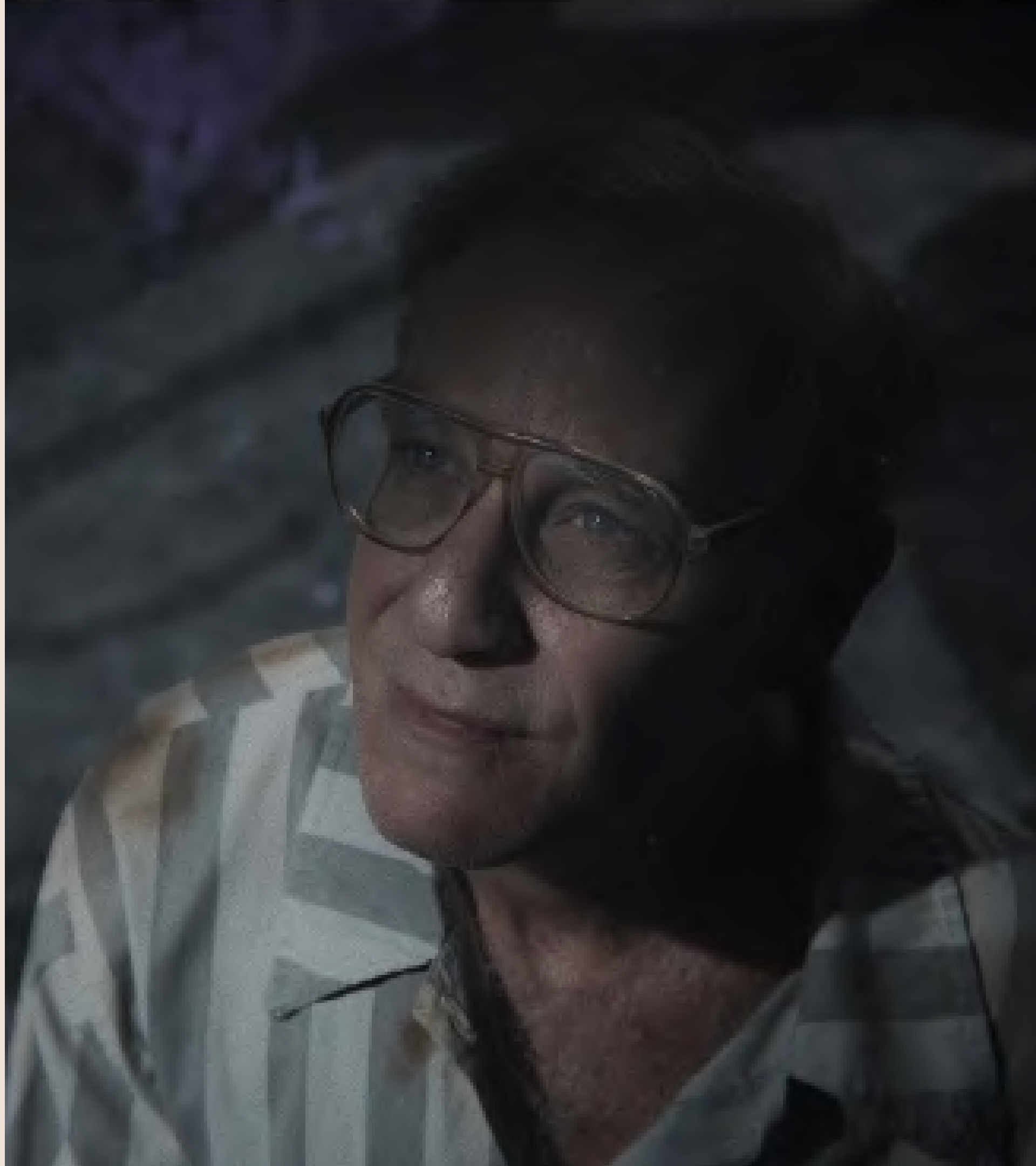
During the explosive Eichmann trial, Ka.tzetnik was forced to reveal his identity to the public as he is summoned to testify. In his iconic testimony, Ka.tzetnik withdraws to another dimension, coining Auschwitz as "The Other Planet" before collapsing on the stand, shocking the court and viewers worldwide.

Haunted by new nightmares rooted in his testimony, Ka.tzetnik turns to experimental LSD treatment in the Netherlands. For over a year, he repeatedly visits his memories of Auschwitz, yearning to find clarity and peace. Eventually, the treatments lead him to a new perception of Auschwitz, which he publishes in his last book, "I Am the SS Man".

The film explores the Ka.tzetnik enigma, shedding light on the person behind the myth, struggling to reconcile his traumatic past and return from The Other Planet.







INTENTION NOTE

"How would the memories of Auschwitz look like under LSD influence?", This question has haunted me for over a decade since I first heard about "The Code," a rare book written by the known Holocaust survivor, Ka.tzetnik.

My first encounter with the author was at the age of sixteen, when his work was distributed to every teenager in Israel by the Ministry of Education, except for this particular book. "The Code," I've learned, is a transcription of the LSD sessions Ka.tzetnik underwent. It had nothing to do with the writer I knew back then, when I was only a teenager, and it left me with a sense of curiosity and a gap that I couldn't fill.

Ka.tzetnik was a role model for a Holocaust survivor in Israel. The phrase he coined in his early books to describe Auschwitz, "The Other Planet," a place outside of the human understanding, helped shape my worldview. Good vs. evil, us vs. them. Like me, the state of Israel embraced Ka.tzetnik's books, and the "The Other Planet" concept became central in Israel, lasting till today.

Years later, I finally had the opportunity to read Ka.tzetnik's final book, "The Code".

The vivid and haunting memories he recounts under the influence of LSD and the new insights he reached were shocking. Only then that I truly understood the scope of his ideas and the depth of his writing.

The book rejects the notion of "The Other Planet" and instead focuses on human responsibility for preventing evil. It was a message that was rarely heard in discussions about the Holocaust, and it left a lasting impression on me. I was surprised to learn that Ka.tzetnik's clear message had been overlooked by many of his readers. The once-central writer was left alone.

I had to learn more and embarked on a journey to explore Ka.tzetnik's life and writing. As I delved deeper, I realized that Ka.tzetnik's writing and ideas are relevant today. Now, I feel obligated to tell this man's story.

Assaf Lapid

ASSAF LAPID BIOGRAPHY

Assaf Lapid is an Israeli screenwriter, director and editor born in 1978. Assaf graduated from The Sam Spiegel film and TV school in Jerusalem in 2008, in which Assaf is now a lecturer and a project advisor.

For the last 15 years, Assaf is working as an editor for Israeli and international projects, many of them were screened worldwide, attract public attention, and won awards. Among them is FAREWELL HERR SCHWARZ (German title - Schnee von Gestern), a highly acclaimed documentary, titled "A masterpiece" by the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. Winner of the DEFA award at DOK Leipzig 2013, Haifa IFF, DIALOUGE Award - Cottbus FF, and more; CAUSE OF DEATH in which Assaf was the film's co-writer and editor, premiered at IDFA 2018, won The Impact Docs Award and was screened worldwide; BORN IN DIER YASSIN, An Israeli Film Academy Award Nominee who won a special mention at The Jerusalem film festival, and more; MAMA'S ANGEL (2014) - Drama series, 10 episodes. Premiere at Series Mania;

WINDING (2015) -Winner FICA 2016, Chicago Arthouse FF, Special Award Green FF 2016 and more.

Nowadays Assaf is co-editing, Oscar nominee, Dror Moreh's new project, "Corridors of Power". 8 episodes Documentary series for SHOWTIME, BBC, and the Israeli broadcast channel (KAN). The series will be aired in 2023.

The Return from the Other Planet is Assaf's debut film as a director.





Black Sheep Film Productions

Founded in 2010 by Saar Yogev and Naomi Levvari out of their love for the art of filmmaking after years of proven experience in the film & TV industry.

With titles premiering in Cannes, Berlinale, Venice, Toronto, Series Mania, among others, winning numerous awards and handling ambitious co-productions, Black Sheep was quickly granted international recognition as a visionary and groundbreaking production company.

The company specializes in character-driven feature films, creative documentaries, and drama series - productions that direct a spotlight on the unheard and unseen on screen, or in other words, to black sheep.

Black Sheep works in close collaboration with its hand-picked creators and production partners, forming long-term relationships while delving into every aspect of the making.

Most importantly, Black Sheep believes that the journey should be joyful.

In 2018 Electric Sheep GmbH was founded in Berlin, a sister to Black Sheep of Tel Aviv.

CREW

DIRECTOR	Assaf Lapid
SCRIPT	Assaf Lapid, Naomi Levari, Saar Yogev
PRODUCERS	Saar Yogev, Naomi Levari, Guy Hodes
	Michael Reuter, Harry Flöter, Jörg Siepmann
CINEMATOGRAPHERS	Talia (Tulik) Galon, Jörg Adams
EDITORS	Nohar Avigail Haseen, Assaf Lapid
ORIGINAL MUSIC	Moshe Baavour
SOUND DESIGNER	Aviv Aldema
ANIMATION SUPERVISOR	Alon Levi
ARCHIVE DESIGNER	Yoav Brill
In coproduction with	2Pilots and Electric Sheep
In coproduction with	Kan Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation

Sharon Alexander as Yehiel De-Nur