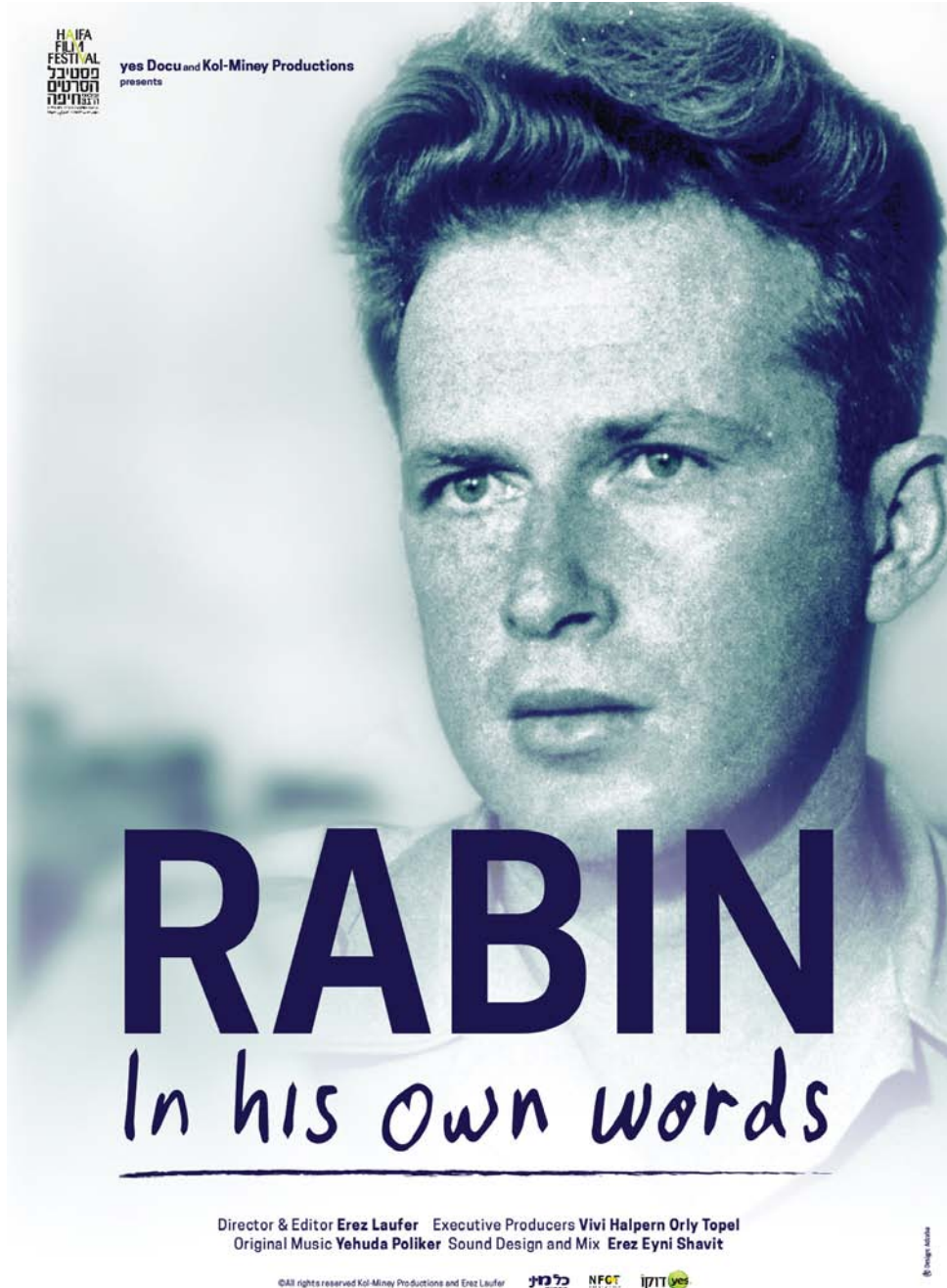


Rabin In His Own Words

A Film by Erez Laufer



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Rabin In His Own Words

**Winner – Best Documentary
Haifa International Film Festival 2015**

"A captivating outlook on the State of Israel through the eyes of a leader, who dreamed, worked and sacrificed for peace, and the tragedy that ended both his life and that hope. The film is a moving cinematic experience." - Jury Statement



Film Details

Country of Origin: Israel

Year of Production: 2015

Language: Hebrew (with English subtitles)

Running Time: 104 minutes

Synopsis

20 years after his assassination, Yitzhak Rabin himself tells his dramatic life story.

Director Erez Laufer brings to the screen the story of one of Israel's most prominent leaders in his own words.

Rabin In His Own Words is an “autobiography” of sorts, the story is told entirely in Rabin’s own voice. Through a combination of rare archival footage, home movies and private letters, his personal and professional dramas unfold before the viewer's eyes - from his childhood as the son of a labor leader before the founding of the State of Israel, through a change of viewpoint that turned him from a farmer into an army man who stood at some of the most critical junctures in Israeli history, through a brilliant diplomatic career as Israeli Ambassador to the United States and his entry into the Israeli political arena, and through his later years during which he served as Prime Minister, opposition leader, Minister of Defense and Prime Minister once more, in which he made moves that enraged a large portion of the public, until the horrific moment when his political career and life were suddenly brought to an end.

Rabin in His Own Words brings the man –flesh and blood- back to life, if only momentarily. The film relays the personal and political life of the man and the myth—**as he lived it**. Like any good protagonist, his narrative is well rounded: sacrifice, heroism, hubris, humor and heartache. Yitzhak Rabin was a complex, contradictory character: honest, innocent and timid while forceful, determined and resilient; a loyal friend who spent much of his time in solitude; blessed with a sense of resolve paralleled only by the doubt that shadowed it; calm and collected like a dormant volcano bound to erupt one day; courteous and contained, he was a gentleman with the fiery temperament of a red-head.

Director's Statement

Rabin In His Own Words is an autobiography (of sorts—because, after all, I decided what Rabin tells us about himself). So many different things can be included in a person's biography, in the attempt to touch the core and harness the essence of one's being. While the film is loyal to Rabin's own voice—the storytelling possibilities are endless. I was guided first and foremost by the idea of intimacy; **Rabin In His Own Words** is an auto-portrait, like listening in on a conversation between a man and himself.

The story is that of a person—as he perceived of himself. Rabin is a character in the center of a film in light of the history he was part of, not only the history he made. Through his personal and political trajectory, private thoughts, and public iterations we learn about ourselves and the twists and turns the State of Israel and Israeli society have taken over the years.

Today, twenty years and one generation later, is a timely moment to reflect on the Rabin legacy. Myths are made by men. Rabin was very human; the intimacy of this portrait will reveal just how much. And like all histories, we stand to learn as much about our present and future, as we will about our past. Although this film chronicles the past, it is made for the future of our children.



Director Erez Laufer is the Co-Editor of two Oscar nominees for Best Documentary: Chris Hegedus and D. A. Pennebaker's ***The War Room*** (1993) and Laura Poitras' ***My Country My Country*** (2006) His own film ***Mike Brant, Laissez-moi t'aimer*** won the 2002 Israeli Academy Award for Best Documentary 2002, and had its international premiere at the Directors Fortnight, Cannes Film Festival 2003.

About Making of the Film

There is something chilling when a person who was murdered 20 years ago - tells us his own life story today. Without interpreters and without intermediaries, we hear the story of one of the most prominent leaders of Israel, in his own words. What is interesting is that you can follow through the historic landmarks of Israel's history how a leader transformed and changed over the years.

The cinematic achievement of the film **Rabin In His Own Words** is that Rabin himself comes to life with personal and professional dramas, the processes that have taken place and the changes in perception of each side in light of changing realities in the Middle East, along with visions for the future of the State of Israel.

Rabin, the shy redhead, who started as a land worker, then Army Chief of Staff during the 1967 Six-Day War and Prime Minister who led the peace process with Arab countries, tells about the road that brought him gradually and fully to the overall solution and life of coexistence with Israel's Arab neighbors.

This did not happen only in his last term - when he met his death, but already had begun during his first term as Prime Minister in 1974-1977. The film shows how Rabin's first term in government was dress rehearsal for the second term in 1992-1995.

About the Archives and Rare Recordings in the Film

The film combines rare archives that, since they were originally broadcasted 40 years ago, have not been seen or heard, a private 8 mm mostly shot by Rabin, a super 8 mm of Rabin in color in 1948 shot by American couple visiting Israel, and private letters to his sister his father and to his wife Leah.

In the film, Rabin openly discusses his feelings when Israelis expelled the Arabs in 1948 from Lod and Ramle. The text was written for his autobiography in 1979 but it was censored at that time because of a perceived harm to Israel. Rabin angered by the censorship, leaked through an English translator that paragraph to the NY Times, which published the story. Rabin never admitted that before. (In the film there are also documents from IDF archive of Rabin orders)

Credits

Director: Erez Laufer

Producers: Orly Topel, Vivi Halpern

Editor: Erez Laufer

Original Score: Yehuda Poliker

Sound Design: Erez Eyni Shavit

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of the New Fund for Cinema and TV