

A call for Co- Production - Partner worldwide
At Post-Production phase of a unique feature length
Essay/Art -House film

'And the alley she whitewashed in light blue'

Screenplay; Director; Production designer; Producer
Nili Portugali Architect A.A.Dip (London) (Berenson family, Tzefat)

Cinematography / Award-Winning Oscar nominated
Ofer Inov / Boaz Yonathan Yaakov

This film is a challenge for partnership

To anyone from **any place culture or tradition** who would share my feeling on the importance of creating **human** environment and artifacts that we really want to live with, by replacing current approaches resulting in places we don't really **feel at home**.

To all who share the **value of documenting Tzefat, one of the four holy cities of Israel**, a city of cultural asset printed in our **collective Jewish memory** since the 16th century that by now 'does not exist anymore' and is totally forgotten



Abstract description of the film

Nili Portugali takes a deeply personal and intimate journey to the Galilean holy Kabbalah picturesque city of **Tzefat (Israel)**, the birth place and home of her family for 7 generations, where her grandmother had founded her hotel 65 years ago in a small stone building around a patio at the end of an alley in the old city (Hotel Tel-Aviv).

Tzefat, is one of the four holy cities in Israel located on the mountains of the Galilee dated to the period of the second temple. Haven to thousands of Jews; prominent mystics; masters of Kabbalah and scholars of religious law who were expelled from Spain and Portugal in the 15th 16th, turning the city to the most important spiritual center of the Jewish community of Israel. A city where religious orthodox Jews; the old Yishuv traditional Jews; secular people and artists enchanted by her beauty, **lived side by side in harmony** and simplicity. But for Portugali Tzefat are the alleys where her grandmother walked and the stone walls covered with the peeling plaster that her hands has touched. Memories 'engraved' on every stone of the city's stones being a micro-document of the characters; events and history of the city **Tzefat** for hundreds of years

Now after the last generation of people that have carried on their shoulders more than 1000 years of history have passed away and when a city of cultural asset printed in our collective Jewish memory '**does not exist anymore**' and is totally **forgotten**, Portugali is reconstructing her childhood memories in a poetic and unique cinematic language. Memories that soon unfolds to a discovery of universal insights from her present **holistic - phenomenological** point of view of what is the secret behind all those places that arouse in us emotional experience in which man feels '**at home**', and what is that one **timeless pure art of making** (adopted by her grandmother in her daily life at her kitchen) which is thousands of years old, and the same today as it has always been which created the great buildings, the villages, tents and temples in which man **feels at home?**
at any culture, at any place and at any time.



The house in Tzefat: simple houses endowed with spirit and soul



“The wishing tree” in Tzefat Cemetery

Production Status

All of the shootings of the film are done by now (HD-Red Mx) +Rough-Cut. Financed by Self and private funds; Private and public In-Kind donation including the Municipality of Tzefat .

Completing the film contingent on financial resources that will enable me to complete the final phase of Post-production & distribution

The ways you can help

Spread the “call for Co- production” Via Email; Facebook; Twitter and Blogs

Tell about the film to family; friends; colleagues; producers; neighbors who might be able to support

For any further details on the film
Please contact Nili Portugali
Via email: niliportugali@hotmail.com **Via Phone:** 972-3-7447954

ABSTRACT BIOGRAPHY of the CREATORS

Screenplay; Director; Production designer; Producer

Nili Portugali, Architect A.A.Dip (London)

Portugali is a well-known practicing architect for more than 40 years (born in Israel, 1948).

A 7th generation descendant of the Berenson family who lives in the holly Galilee city of **Tzefat**, since the early 19th century and the granddaughter of Dr. Nissan Kahan, founder of the Zionist movement in Hungary (Herzl's right hand).

She was a senior lecturer at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Department of Architecture, Jerusalem and at the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning at the Technion, Haifa

Her work is documented worldwide in books, in the Dictionair De l'Architecture Du xxe Scielle / Hazan Publication France, in professional magazines, in the press and on television.

Her **multidisciplinary** work in the **Visual arts & Architecture** focuses on both practice and theory closely connected to the **holistic-phenomenological school of thought**.

She is a graduate of prestigious '**Architectural Association School of Architecture**' (A.A.), London. She did post graduate studies in **Architecture and Buddhism** at the **University of California, Berkeley**, worked and participating in research with Prof. Christopher Alexander at the '**Center for Environmental Structure**', **Berkeley**. She did selected postgraduate studies in film at the Tel-Aviv University.

Among the buildings she designed is "**The Felicja Blumenthal Music Center and Library**", **Tel Aviv** . She has won prizes in competitions. Her work was exhibited in the **Venice and San Paolo Architecture Biennale**.

She is invited as a guest lecturer to leading universities all over the world (MIT, Harvard, Carleton, Oxford, TU Stuttgart; TU Dresden; TU Delft, Tsinghua China).

Her first book: ***The Act of Creation and the Spirit of Place: A Holistic-Phenomenological Approach to Architecture / Edition Axel Menges Stuttgart /London 2006*** was among the books of the year selected by the Royal Institute of British Architects (**R.I.B.A**) International Book Award (Launched at USA ; Europe & China). Her second book recently published: ***A Holistic Approach to Architecture: "The Felicja Blumenthal Music Center and Library"***, **Tel Aviv** / Am Oved Publishers Ltd, Tel Aviv 2011 .(www.niliportugali.com)

Cinematographer Ofer Inov: Among his Award-winning films: '**Beaufor**' nominated for the Academy Award USA for Best Foreign Language Film; The Gospel According to God; Haiu Leilot and many more

Cinematographer Boaz Yehonatan Yaakov: Among his Award-winning films: '**Ajami**' nominated for the Academy Award, USA for Best Foreign Language Film; 'Restoration'; 'Dr.Pomeranz' and many more.