



THE PROMISED LAND

BEHIND THE TRANQUILITY LIES A TRUE STORY OF DESTRUCTION AND INHUMANITY



THE PROMISED LAND

A Film by Roger Spottiswoode

Hannah visits her dying father in Canada – only to find herself on a more revealing journey of her parents past. Together they fulfill her father's lifelong ambition of travelling to Israel to visit Canada Park, a pleasant recreational area within the West Bank, which they had contributed to as a Jewish family many years earlier.

But behind its apparent tranquility lies a true story of destruction and inhumanity; of Palestinian villages and lives razed to the ground, of Canadian Jews funding their Promised Land from afar at another peoples cost. Hannah's journey leads her to a young Palestinian, Rashid, whose father's grave lies covered over by the Jewish idyll. Back in Canada, re-united with her old friend, the journalist Nick, she discovers the Jewish National Fund, a land scheme that appears to the young idealistic Hannah to go against all UN and Government agreements. How will Hannah ultimately reconcile her love of her parents, with her new knowledge of their willing participation in a scheme she believes unjust.

On June 5th, 1967, a unit of the Israel Defense Forces occupied the West Bank villages of Imwas, Beit Nuba and Yalu. The inhabitants offered no resistance. On June the 7th, on the orders of Yitzhak Rabin, then Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces, the IDF began the destruction and the ethnic cleansing of the villages.

Many of the dispossessed were driven towards Ramallah. According to eye-witnesses, eighteen old or disabled men in Beit Nuba, who were unable or unwilling to leave when ordered to, were buried under the rubble of their homes. The ten thousand inhabitants of Imwas, Yalu and Beit Nuba were made refugees.

In 1973, Bernard Bloomfield, then president of the JNF (Jewish National Fund) of Canada, started a campaign to raise \$15 million to establish a recreation area for the Jewish residents of Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv.

Canada Park was developed on the site of the destroyed villages.

In development

Director: **Roger Spottiswoode**
Producers: **Malcolm Craddock, Julia Stannard**
Writer: **Leslie Stewart**

ROGER SPOTTISWOODE

Roger has directed major movies including the 007 TOMORROW NEVER DIES, AIR AMERICA, AND THE BAND PLAYED ON, SHAKE HANDS WITH THE DEVIL, UNDER FIRE and HIROSHIMA.

MALCOLM CRADDOCK

Recent TV films include SHARPE (16 TV movies for ITV, starring Sean Bean) A LIFE FOR A LIFE (ITV, starring Olympia Dukakis), which was nominated for the PRIX ITALIA and BAFTA, and won the RTS Awards for Best Writer and Best Newcomer, and REBEL HEART for the BBC and the film PING PONG.

JULIA STANNARD

Work for major networks include A LIFE FOR A LIFE and SHARPE'S CHALLENGE for ITV, CRIME AND PUNISHMENT and BYRON for BBC, THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR, NEVER NEVER and WHITE TEETH for Channel 4 and feature films THE HISTORY BOYS and BOOGIE WOOGIE. Recently Julia produced an award winning adaptation of Margaret Atwood's THE ROBBER BRIDE and the romantic comedy ABROAD for Working Title TV.

LESLIE STEWART

Having spent his formative years in the Middle East, Leslie has created an acclaimed body of work across film, theatre, television and radio, working predominately as a writer, and director. He has written primetime drama for all major UK networks and leading theatres.

PICTURE PALACE FILMS

Now one of the longest running independent production companies in the UK with an enviable track record for making ambitious action adventure films and quality drama.


picture palace

13 Egbert Street, London NW1 8LJ
Tel: +44 (0)20 7586 8763
www.picturepalace.com