

## Israel

The Israeli film sector draws its strength from its organisation and the diversity of its production support funds, including tax incentives. The country has a network of 120 cinema theatres with 400 screens and 10 million admissions annually. After a peak of 23 films recorded in 2004, the production of feature films has remained at approximately 18 films per year. In 2007, “The Band’s Visit” and “Beaufort” (the latter film won the Silver Bear at the Berlin Film Festival) enjoyed critical and box-office success confirming the vitality of Israeli cinema. Most of the films reflect the conflicts permeating society: religion/secularity, family/individual, war/coexistence with one’s neighbours. A striking trend in recent years has been the emergence of many women filmmakers with the consecration of “Close to Home” by Vidi Bilu and Dalia Hager.

**Population:** 7 045 000 (2008 estimate)

**GDP in billions of USD (estimates):** 149 (2007), 158,4 (2008)

**Currency/rate of exchange:**

Shekel (ILS), 1€ = 5.2457 ILS, 1€ = 1.5748 USD,

*Sources: INED, FMI – World Economic Outlook Database, inforEuro*

**Public funds available for the cinema:**

16.5 MUSD (10.5 M€)

*Source: The Israeli Film Fund*

## **PRODUCTION**

### **Number of production companies:**

approximately 120 independent companies, approximately 10 production studios and 30 post-production companies

### **Number of films produced per year:**

between 14 and 18 fictions films

TV production: approximately 400 hours of fiction, series and serials, 10 hours of animation films and approximately 300 commercial spots per year.

### **Number of co-productions per year:**

3 to 5 fiction films, mainly with Europe, Canada and Australia, plus 5 to 10 documentaries

### **Average budget of a feature film:**

between 600.000 and 1 M USD (381.000 and 635.000€)

For television, average budgets are of 130.000 USD (82 550€) per hour for fiction and documentaries and 100.000 USD (63 500€) per hour for a series

## **FILM LABORATORIES**

Only 1 laboratory that develops negative film and does transfers from negative to digital

## **TRAINING**

8 schools for film and television in the country.

Special courses in close to 200 high schools for pupils of 10th and 12th grade

## **CO-PRODUCTION AGREEMENTS**

Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Sweden

## **MAIN FESTIVALS**

14 film and television festivals

## **MAIN PRIZES OBTAINED**

14 major national prizes

Approximately 80 international prizes

## **DISTRIBUTION, EXHIBITION**

- Number of cinema theatres, screens: approximately 120 cinemas with 380 screens and a total of 80 000 seats. Several multiplexes of which one with 20+ screens
- Number of other films screened in cinemas each year: approximately 200
- Number of European films screened in cinemas/year: 40-45
- Number of US films screened in cinemas: 125-140
- Number of other films screened in cinemas/year: 12-14
- Number of spectators: estimated at 9.5 million for 2006 (10% for national films) and 9.7 million for 2007 (14% for national films)
- Number of distributors: 8
- Best box-office takings: Ratatouille, Shrek 3, Harry Potter, and for national films: Beaufort, The Band's Visit by Eran Ko
- Cost of an admission: 7 USD (4.45€ )
- Cost of a one-hour connection to the Internet: 5 USD (3.18€ )

## MEDIA

### Television

2 public TV stations sharing the same channel: The Public Television Channel –(Channe1). 18 h per day, funded by a licence fee. Educational TV: a public service, funded by the Ministry of Education. 8 hours per day.

2 private commercial channels: channels 2 (created 1993) and 10 (2002), broadcast 20 hours per day. Entirely funded by advertising income.

Cable television provides access to many channels from Europe, the Middle East, Russia and the United States and includes local programmes. Cable TV is financed by subscriptions

Satellite television: introduced in 2000, it offers a very wide selection of channels, 15 of which include local programmes. Funded by subscriptions

Percentage of viewers of national channels: 20 - 25%

Percentage of viewers of satellite channels: 2 - 2.5%

Broadcast languages: local and foreign languages (4 for TV)

Number of national films broadcast on TV: approximately 30% of local production of fiction films

### Radio

6 radio stations.

Broadcast languages: local and 7 foreign languages



**"The Heart of Jenin"**

Dir: Leon Geller & Markus Vetter

Euromed Audiovisual II  
participants at the Berlinale Talent Campus