



**A Co-Production of Tamouz Media/Bo Travail!
and the Independent Television Service (ITVS), Channel 4 Incorporated,
and ZDF/ARTE, with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting**

90 minutes / color / 2008

An Icarus Films Release

32 Court Street, 21st Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201
T (718) 488 8900 / (800) 876 1710 / F (718) 488 8642
www.IcarusFilms.com / mail@IcarusFilms.com

SYNOPSIS

After fighting as an Israeli soldier in the 1973 war, and troubled by the nation's obsessive mixing of the Bible with politics, the filmmaker left for America, which he considered a "safe haven" because of its separation between church and state. Thirty-five years later, alarmed by the prominent role of religion in the 2008 American presidential campaign, he decides to make a road trip, to try and understand the phenomenon.

Rather than follow the candidates, however, Ziv decides to meet with religious activists supporting the Democratic and Republican candidates. From the Iowa Caucus and the New Hampshire and South Carolina primaries to Super Tuesday in Oklahoma, JESUS POLITICS shows the efforts of Baptist activists for Obama, Catholics and evangelicals for McCain, Christian conservatives for Huckabee, as well as the political efforts of evangelical organizations such as Christians United for Israel.

Through archival footage and discussions with author and theology historian Randall Balmer (God in the White House) and Moral Majority cofounder Paul Weyrich, the film also provides a historical overview of religion in American politics, from the Great Awakening religious revivals in the 18th and 19th centuries, through 1960 when JFK asked voters to disregard his Catholic faith, through the rise of Jimmy Carter in 1976 as a "born again" politician, and the more recent rise of the Religious New Right, and its political activism around the issues of abortion and homosexuality.

JESUS POLITICS explores themes including the social role of the church in the African-American community, the religious rhetoric of the candidates and their sometimes controversial associations with religious leaders, how moral issues such as abortion became political weapons, and how biblical interpretation is used to validate political beliefs.

Filmed across 4000 miles and seventeen states, in JESUS POLITICS Ziv weaves an historically informed but thoroughly contemporary cinematic essay, a probing look at how deeply religious faith shapes 21st century American politics.





Anita L. Staver



Huckabee Supporters

In Florida



Maureen Mooney with Ilan Ziv



McCain headquarters



Rev Helen Seenster, Obama supporter



Barack Obama



Rabbi Yoel Bin Nun



Ilan Ziv facing Jericho

Israel, the West Bank



Religious reenactors in Kentucky



Cory Burnell



Ilan Ziv was born in Israel in 1950 and came to the United States after fighting in the Yom Kippur (The October) War in 1973. Ilan Ziv is a graduate of New York University film school, and in 1978 he co-produced New York's first Middle East Film Festival. That same year he founded Icarus Films, an educational film distribution company, which he left in 1980 in order to devote himself to making documentary films, and since then he has directed dozens of documentaries dealing broadly with issues of human rights and investigations of contemporary history.

His most recent film *Six Days, 1967: the War that changed the Middle East*. opened last year theatrically in NY and was broadcast last summer around the world (PBS (US), ARTE (France Germany) , RAI (Italy) Radio Canada (Canada), Channel 10 (Israel), SBS (Australia) and many other countries . The film has been hailed by critics.

“...helmet Ilan Ziv provides invaluable perspective and fresh insights while offering an enlightening history lesson with the narrative momentum of an engrossing drama” - Variety .

“Six Days gives the Battle of Algiers , a run for its money “ -Time out

His other critically-acclaimed films have included *On the Edge of Peace* (1995); *Tango of Slaves* (1994); and *Human Weapon*(2002) hailed by the New York Times as ***“gripping and important”***. and *Junction* (2006) hailed by the ***Village Voice*** as ***“wrenching”***. ***“ Ilan Ziv, wrote The Jewish Week is one of the most insightful and inventive documentary directors to emerge from Israel .His films have been broadcast by leading television networks and presented in film festivals around the world. Accolades include the Prix Europa (Europe highest television award), Silver Nymph and International Jury Award in Monte Carlo, Cine Eagle and an Emmy in the United States. The Best Documentary Award at Israel's Haifa International Film Festival.***

Ilan Ziv has been a pioneer in the United States of developing a new kind of television documentaries where ordinary people working in collaboration with professionals are producing personal records of their lives Ilan Ziv produced and co produced “Video Diaries” with the BBC , ARD , Israeli Television, IKON (Dutch TV), PBS (US) and Channel 4 in the UK. Some of these unique documentaries premiered in int'l film festivals including Sundance.

CREDIT LIST

DIRECTED by Ilan Ziv

CO PRODUCED by Ilan Ziv & Serge Gordey

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Sam Shin

EDITOR

Ilan Benatar

ORIGINAL MUSIC

Jonathan Bar Giora

LOCATION SOUND RECORDING

Pepe Jose Urquijo

SOUND DESIGN AND MIX

Chen Harpaz

SOUND FACILITY

Vertigo Power

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS - USA

Gini Sikes

Osnat Kim Spiegler

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER - ISRAEL

Sigal Rosh

ADDITIONAL CAMERA

Itzik Ben Senior

Evan Estern

ADDITIONAL SOUND

Adrian Jackson

Jonathan Williams

Idan Shemesh

ADDITIONAL MUSIC

Joel Diamond

Yuval Semo

COLORIST

Jonathan Sears

PRODUCTION STILLS

Debby Tyson

WEB SITE DESIGN

Stella Levi

WEB SITE VIDEO EDITING

Pepe Jose Urquijo

ON-LINE FACILITIES

Broadway Video
Buttons NY

PRODUCTION ACCOUNTANT

Kelley Trotter

LEGAL AFFAIRS

Rajan Sharma
Jonathan Bar Giora Rep:
Gil Yuval, Kneller, Artists Agency Ltd.

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

Berkeley riot footage courtesy Larry Nimmer / www.nimmer.net
Gustav Dore Bible Illustration, Dover Publications Inc
The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Foundation
The Lynden Baines Johnson Library and Museum
Collection of The New-York Historical Society
ABC news VideoSource
AP/ Wide World Photos
The library of Congress
CNN ImageSource
Curtis Publishing
Footage Farm
Getty Images
IBA Archives
Corbis
Norman Rockwell's Saturday Evening Post illustration
C19*43SEPS: Licensed by Curtis Publishing, Indianapolis ,IN

PARTICIPANTS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Ilan Ziv
Rev. Helen Seenster
Randal Balmer
Rev. George L. West
Rev. James Jackson
Maureen Mooney
Pam Colantuono
Allene Haugabook
Pastor Dan Arial
Paul Weyrich
Cliff Rice
Charles Giunta
Diane Stover
Rabbi Yoel Bin Nun
Frank Jarobe
Rob Shearer
Irma Canan
Anita Staver
Art Ally
Bonnie Ally
David Bryant
Robin Bryant
Dave Hart
Debbiew Hart
Wes Pennington

Dr. Joel Hunter
Pastor Dan Arial
Carlvin Jones
B.J. Staggs
Brena Walker
Dr. John Walker
Gracie Floyd
Mike Coleman
Stephany Grace
Charles Hamby
Betty Hamby
Dr. Stuart Sprague
Liz Carey
Jackie Oyludag
Arief Hill
Sheryl Siddiqui
Houssam Elsoueiss
Allison Moore

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Brown Chapel AME Church, AL
Four Ace Diner, N.H
International hairport and company, Spartanburg, SC
Israel Hotel Association (IHA)
Jimmy Carter Library & Museum
Koinonia Ministries. Full Gospel Baptist Church
Matty's Restaurant, SC
Northland Church, FL
Oz Nisim
Red River Meeting Place Association
Rice Family, Valparaiso, IN
Royal Baptist Church, SC
Rumi Gorodiski
Trumbull House B&B, N.H
Tuckers Restaurant, SC

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER FOR ARTE

Hans Robert Eisenhauer

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MORE 4

Sandra Windham

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER FOR ITVS

Sally Jo Fifer

JESUS POLITICS A Journey is a co-production of Tamouz Media/Bo Travail and Independent Television Service (ITVS), Channel 4, ZDF/ARTE, in association with CBC NEWS WORLD, Radio Canada, TSR, RTBF, ORF, and with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB)

©2008 Tamouz Media/Bo Travail! all rights reserved

An **Icarus Films** Release