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OFFICIAL SELECTION
CLE
INT'L
FILM
FEST
2024

YANIU

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Toronto Jewish
Film Festival
2024

OFFICIAL SELECTION
MIAMI
JEWISH
film FESTIVAL
2024

A FILM BY AMNON CARMİ & BEN DUCCOFF



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SYNOPSIS

A high school teacher in the Bronx loses funding for the school musical and convinces his fellow statistics teacher—secretly a recovering gambling addict—to help him cheat at an underground card game run by the Hasidic Jewish community. The plan goes awry with mounting consequences, but help comes at an unexpected time from the least likely people.

KEY CREW



Amnon Carmi

Producer, Co-Writer
Director, Editor, Actor

Amnon is an internationally recognized director, producer and editor with a decade of experience in animation and film production.



Ben Ducoff

Producer, Co-Writer
Lead Actor

Ben is a nationally acclaimed playwright, screenwriter, producer, and an NYC Dept of Education high school teacher.



Nik Sadhnani

Producer
Actor

Nik is a producer and actor. Credits include *FBI* (2019), *Law & Order: SVU* (2017) and *The Week Of* (2018).



Catherine Curtin

Executive Producer
Actor

Catherine Curtin is a producer and award-winning actor. Credits include *Stranger Things* (2017-2022), *Orange is the New Black* (2013-2019) and *Insecure* (2016-2018)



Dustin Ward

Director of Photography

Dustin Ward is an acclaimed Director of Photography based in New York City. With an impressive 21 awards to his name, he was endorsed by Wedio Academy as one of the “12 Cinematographers in New York City You Should Know in 2022.” Having built a career on his keen eye for detail and ability to lead an exceptional team, he is sought after by industry titans like Netflix, HBO, Warner Brothers, Tubi, Apple, A&E, and more.



AJ Mattioli

Line Producer/ UPM

AJ Mattioli (He/Him) is a Queens born, Brooklyn based, Trans Producer/Director with 17+ years in the entertainment industry. He has Produced over 20 award winning films since 2011. His work has been celebrated at the Queens Museum, The United Nations, The NY Times, The Advocate, Huffington Post, Gay Star News, Go Magazine, and many others! As the go-to Trans Producer he’s worked with some of the hottest LGBTQ+ celebs, including Sasha Velour, Shakina Nayfack, Bob The Drag Queen, Cory Wade, Rain Dove, Vincent DePaul, Carmen Carrera, Miss Fame, and many more. AJ stands firmly with the BLM movement.

KEY CAST



Amnon Carmi
The Rebbe



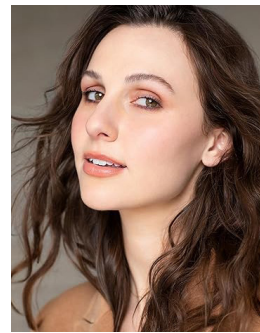
Ben Ducoff
Barry Bernstein



Catherine Curtin
Principal O'Donnell



Eli Boskey
Jonah Levy
Eli is a screen actor known for *Shoot First* (2020) and *Narkeleptik* (2021).



Annabel Steven
Deb Eichenberg
Annabel is a screen actor known for *Please Come With Me* (2018) and *Tom of Your Life* (2020).



Adam B Shapiro
Mendy
Adam is an award-winning singer and screen actor known for *The Normal Heart* (2014), *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* (2017) and *Master of None* (2015). He was also in the ensemble of and the understudy for Tevye and Lazer Wolf in *Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish* Off Broadway.



Rachel Luciani
Emma Levy



Ben Salus
Cousin Rick



Mitchell Fields
Mickey (aka Zayde)

STILLS



BEHIND THE SCENES



FAQ

How did you fund this film?

Through a multitude of producers who appreciate the messaging of the film, as well as access to incredible filmmaking resources through a partnership with the NYC Department of Education.

What was your inspiration for the film?

Amnon and Ben (co-writers) have built a creative partnership that began at recess in the fourth grade. They felt ready to take their vision to the next level with a feature. Though they were raised mostly secular, both had family clergy members and felt a deep connection to the three branches of Judaism—despite the differences. This film is an exploration of that curiosity.

Is Yaniv a real game?

Yaniv is indeed a real game whose rules and popularity were developed by young Israeli travelers vacationing after army. It is now a staple Israeli game among Millennials and Gen Z.

How long did the project take?

The first draft was written in five weeks, the next seventeen drafts over the following year. Following three months of pre-production, the film was shot over twenty days in the summer of 2022 in Detroit and parts of New York City. The first edit was completed in eight months, and the first advanced screening took place one year after production wrapped.

What is your goal for the film?

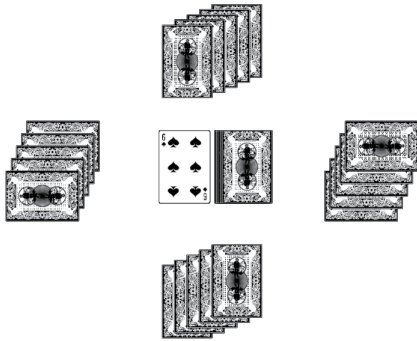
We see Yaniv becoming a staple film in Jewish culture internationally. It has already developed a cult classic following, on the heels of our grassroots campaign to get it in theaters.

What is happening with distribution?

Yaniv is being theatrically distributed by Menemsha Films. For inquiries, please reach out to neilf@menemshafilms.com

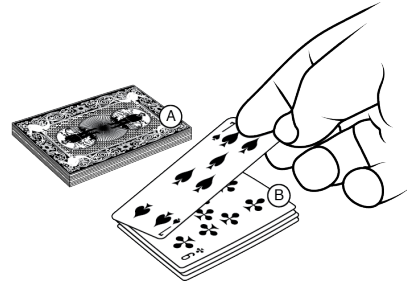
HOW TO PLAY YANIV

1. FOUR PLAYERS ARE EACH DEALT FIVE CARDS. THE REMAINING CARDS ARE PLACED IN THE TABLE CENTER FACE-DOWN AS A PILE. THE TOP CARD IS REMOVED AND PLACED FACE-UP BESIDE THE PILE.



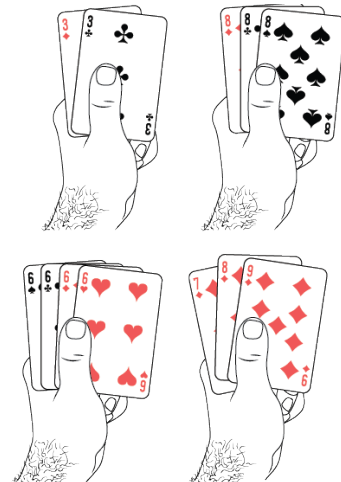
3. THE GOAL IS TO HAVE A SUM OF SEVEN OR LESS IN YOUR HAND.

GOING CLOCKWISE, EACH PLAYER PLACES A CARD FACE-UP ON THE FACE-UP PILE, AND EITHER TAKES A CARD FROM THE FACE-DOWN PILE (A), OR THE FACE-UP CARD BENEATH THE ONE THEY JUST PUT DOWN (B).



2. EACH CARD'S VALUE IS EQUAL TO THE NUMBER OF POINTS IT IS WORTH, EXCEPT FOR ACES, JOKERS AND FACECARDS.

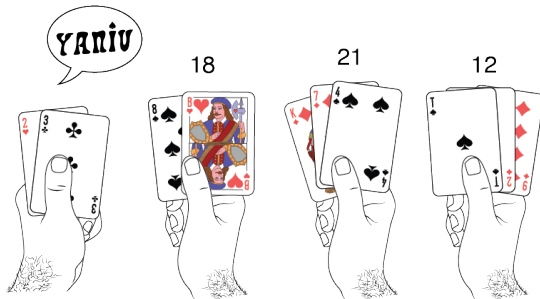
4. YOU MAY ALSO PLACE DOUBLES, TRIPLES, QUADRUPLES OR STRAIGHT FLUSHES OF THREE OR MORE. YOU STILL ONLY TAKE ONE CARD.



WILDCARD JOKER: EX. IF YOU HAVE A 3 AND 5 OF THE SAME SUIT BUT NO 4, YOU CAN PLACE A JOKER IN THE MIDDLE AND DROP ALL THREE AS A STRAIGHT. THE NEXT PLAYER CAN TAKE THE TOP OR BOTTOM CARD, *BUT NOT THE MIDDLE CARD.*

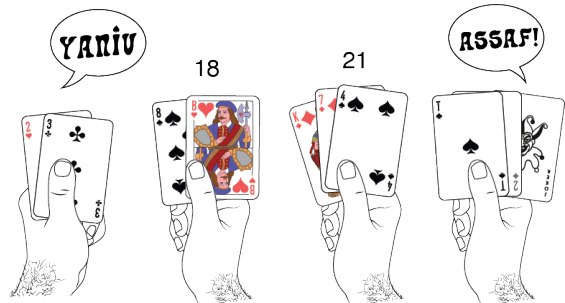
HOW TO PLAY YANIV

6. ONCE YOU HAVE A SUM OF SEVEN OR LESS IN YOUR HAND, YOU CAN CALL OUT "YANIV" AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR NEXT TURN.



EVERYONE SHOWS THEIR CARDS AND ADDS UP THEIR POINTS.

7. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE FEWEST POINTS OF EVERYONE, YOU GET "ASSAF'D".



YOU THEN HAVE TO TALLY YOUR POINTS AND ADD AN ADDITIONAL 30 TO YOUR SCORE.

IF YOU INDEED HAVE THE FEWEST POINTS OF EVERYONE, YOU WIN THE ROUND.

EVERYONE TALLIES THEIR POINTS UNDER THEIR NAME ON A SCORECARD, EXCEPT FOR YOU. YOU THEN START THE NEXT ROUND.

THE REAL WINNER TALLIES THEIR POINTS AS WELL, BUT STARTS THE NEXT ROUND.

ד	ג	ב	א
35	18	21	3

ד	ג	ב	א
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8. IF YOU PASS 100 POINTS YOU LOSE. BUT IF YOU HIT EXACTLY 100 POINTS, YOU GO BACK TO FIFTY. AND IF YOU HIT EXACTLY FIFTY POINTS, YOU GO BACK TO ZERO.

SLAP DOWN RULE: IF YOU PUT DOWN A CARD, LIKE AN 8 (A), AND PICK UP ANOTHER 8 (B) FROM THE DOWN-FACING PILE, YOU CAN SLAP IT DOWN ON THE UP-FACING PILE AND END YOUR TURN WITH ONE LESS CARD... AS LONG AS THE NEXT PLAYER HAS NOT ALREADY PLACED THEIR CARD.



TECHNICAL SPECS

Format: Digital

Aspect Ratio: 2.39:1

Audio Format: Stereo

Length: 85 minutes

Original Language: English

PRESS & REVIEWS

Please visit <https://www.yanivfilm.com/press>

CONTACT

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