



Presents

## East Jerusalem West Jerusalem

A film by Henrique Cymerman and Erez Miller

*"The album is good; the making-of documentary is extraordinary."* – Jordan Hoffman, **Vanity Fair**

*"The film EAST JERUSALEM WEST JERUSALEM is a must-see for anyone who believes in coexistence, in peace, in hope, and in the ability to build bridges and connect through the arts and music."* – Dror Moreh, director of **The Gatekeepers**



**Israel / 2014 / Documentary / English /**

**84 min / 1.78:1 / 2.0 Stereo**

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## Select Press for EAST JERUSALEM WEST JERUSALEM

“The film is hopeful, honest and unexpectedly powerful...” - Jessica Steinberg, *Times of Israel*

“At a time when Israel and Palestine seem as hopelessly divided as ever, the documentary shows how artistry can wrestle with heavy societal themes to inspire personal, soul-stirring music.” – Zack Sharf, *IndieWire*

“By focusing on the creation of Broza’s last album, a joyful collaboration between Palestinian and Israeli musicians produced by legendary singer/songwriter Steve Earle... Israeli filmmakers Erez Miller and Henrique Cymerman manage to inject a sense of optimism into a conflict that often seems desperate and without solution.” – Andrea R. Vaucher, *The Wrap*

“...it is undeniable that EAST JERUSALEM WEST JERUSALEM shows a unique display of positivity and humanity from within a part of the world that needs this kind of exposure more than any.” – Tom Curtis, *Bring the Noise*

“...the film EAST JERUSALEM WEST JERUSALEM was created with Israeli, Palestinian, and American musicians, demonstrating that music can be a bridge builder between people in conflict. The movie is truly inspirational, showing people are people, and how we can break the myth of Israelis and Palestinians not getting along.” – Iris Mohr, *Jerusalem Post*

“While collaborations like this aren’t unprecedented, the timing and scope of this project has far-reaching effects.” – Jordan Hoffman, *Vanity Fair*

“... a joyful collaboration between Palestinian and Israeli musicians.” - Andrea R. Vaucher, *Huffington Post*

“...a rich musical journey into the possibilities of overcoming the conflict and connecting...” – Ilene Prusher, *Haaretz.com*

“... (a) compassion-minded documentary” - Mitch Myers, *The Hollywood Reporter*

## **FULL SYNOPSIS**

In early 2013 Israeli singer-songwriter David Broza arrives in East Jerusalem for an unprecedented project. Broza has always believed in the power of music to transform political and social realities, working for almost 40 years to challenge people's perceptions and beliefs, and connect adversaries through songs and lyrics.

Following his years-old dream to record songs in the Palestinian side of Jerusalem with musicians from Palestine and Israel, Broza begins in January 2013 an eight-day session in the studio of Sabreen, the legendary Palestinian band.

Broza recruits four-time Grammy Award-winner singer-songwriter and American activist Steve Earle, renowned Israeli Palestinian singer, actor and activist Mira Awad, Palestinian cinematographer Issa Freij, Palestinian hip hop artist from the Shuaafat refugee camp Muhammad Mughrabi, Israeli musicians Jean Paul Zimbris, Alon Nadel and Gadi Seri, as well as and other American, Israeli and Palestinian participants.

During the extensive sessions they enjoy special dinners that offer them opportunities to share their life stories and learn surprising truths about each other. The ever-curious Broza is eager to explore a part of the world which is very close to his home in Tel Aviv, yet so remote. As the two members of "G-Town" describe the realities of Shuaafat refugee camp, where they live, Broza decides to visit the place in the dark of night.

Broza also tours the Old City of Jerusalem with a Palestinian friend, seeing it from a different perspective. Producer Steve Earle, who wrote in the 1990s a song called "Jerusalem" (recorded by Broza especially for this project), sees the city for the first time - the eight-day stay in Jerusalem offers him unexpected insights into the political and cultural complexities of the region.

While the harmonious experience at the studio is reflected in the recordings of both cover songs and original material, including "East Jerusalem / West Jerusalem", written by Broza and Wyclef Jean, the situation in East Jerusalem is far from peaceful. The commitment of Broza and his fellow musicians to establish dialogue, however, is never doubted. The experience they share together offers an alternative story, one of seeking bridge building, living together, and finding common ground.

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

David Broza, the Israeli singer-songwriter, sets out to realize his dream of cooperation and dialog between Israelis and Palestinians through music. During 8 days and nights of joint creation in an East Jerusalem studio a hopeful message of equality and unity arises.

## **LOGLINE**

In Palestinian East Jerusalem, Singer-Songwriter David Broza records a new album with American, Palestinian and Israeli musicians in defiance of the Middle East's dark realities.

## **ASSETS**

Trailer: TBD

Downloadable Hi-res images:

<http://www.filmmovement.com/filmcatalog/index.asp?MerchandiseID=461>

## CREDITS

### FEATURING

David Broza  
Mira Awad  
Steve Earle  
Steve Greenberg  
Alon Nadel  
Gadi Seri  
Elias Wakileh  
Jean-Paul Zimbriz



### CREW

#### Directors

Henrique Cymerman  
Erez Miller

#### Writer

Gidi Avivi  
David Broza  
Henrique Cymerman

#### Producer

Gidi Avivi

#### Director of Photography

Issa Freij  
Erez Miller  
Ohad Milstein

#### Editor

Erez Miller

#### Sound Mixer

Nir Cinamon

#### Assistant Camera

Ron Smilansky

#### Music arrangement

David Broza  
Udi Harpaz  
Micah Hendler

#### Musicians

Jonathan Levy  
Ariel Qassis  
Yossi Sassi

## BIOGRAPHIES

### DAVID BROZA

Israeli superstar David Broza has been considered one of the most dynamic and vibrant performers in the singer/songwriter world. His charismatic and energetic performances have brought to worldwide audiences a fusion of three different countries in which he was raised: Israel, Spain, and England, filling concert halls with guitar playing, ranging from flamenco-flavored rhythmic and percussive techniques, to whirlwind finger picking, to a signature rock 'n' roll sound.

Broza unites the three worlds by utilizing his ability to take on the troubadour tradition, featuring lyrics of the worlds' greatest poets. More than a singer/songwriter, David Broza is also well known for his commitment and dedication to several humanitarian causes, predominantly, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Beginning in 1977, Broza has been working to bring the message of peace to the masses by joining peace movements, and singing what has become the anthem of the peace process, his hit song, "Yihye Tov." Since that time, Broza has released over 30 albums in Hebrew, English and Spanish, many of which have become gold and platinum albums.



In 2006 David Broza received the "In Search for Common Ground" award along with Palestinian musician/composer Said Murad, and in 2009 the Spanish King, Juan Carlos I, decorated him with the Spanish Royal Medal of Honor for his longtime contribution to Israel-Spain relations, and his dedication to promotion of tolerance and conflict resolution. Among his recent releases, Broza dedicated an album to the unpublished poetry of US singer-songwriter, Townes Van Zandt, called "Night Dawn." Broza also published his first completely self-written and composed Hebrew album titled "Third Language."

2014 saw the release of one of the most challenging albums in Broza's long career - an album recorded in its entirety in the Palestinian Sabreen Studio in East Jerusalem, with the help of American multi-Grammy Award Winner singer-songwriter Steve Earle as producer. The collaborative work of the Israeli and Palestinian musicians, sound engineers, camera men, chefs and many others who came to assist and be part of the eight days and nights, produced a beautiful, intimate and special album and documentary EAST JERUSALEM WEST JERUSALEM. Throughout 2015, Broza has been touring and promoting this latest work.

While touring throughout 2015 and promoting the film, David went into the studio to record a new album featuring his collaboration with the wonderful Andalusian Orchestra of Ashkelon and under the direction of the musical director and conductor Tom Cohen. The album comes as a result of almost 100 shows played in the past five years and including some of David's greatest hits mixed with some of the greatest compositions of Arab renowned composers such as Abed Al Wahab and many others. The music intertwines with the different styles creating an original sound and a very vibrant and fresh approach to such well known music. The album is called "Andalusian Love Song."

## **Henrique Cymerman, Writer/Director**

Henrique Cymerman is the Middle East correspondent for Portuguese, Spanish and Brazilian TV channels and newspapers (La Vanguardia, Spanish TV network Antena 3 Televisión, Portuguese TV network SiC, American UNIVISION network, GLOBONEWS Brazil, Chinese TV CCTV, BBC, Expresso newspaper). He contributes regularly to Israeli and Palestinian television and has made several appearances for the BBC. He is the author of "Voices from the Centre of the World," a book which includes interviews with main leaders in the Middle East. The book was published in 5 languages: Portuguese, Spanish, Hebrew, Arabic and English.



### **Filmography**

- 1997 Award in the Best International Correspondent New York Festivals, for the story "Bisha, The Bedouins' Proof of Fire."
- 2003 Award in the Best Documentary Category, New York Festivals, for the story "A Suicide Bomber in the Children's Room."

## **Erez Miller, Director**

Erez Miller is a film director, DOP and a film editor. His first documentary film, *443*, was awarded First prize at the Cinema South Film festival (Israel, 2010) and screened at film festivals worldwide. Erez is an honorary graduate of the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem.



### **Filmography**

- 2005 "My Father", short documentary film, 5 min. (director, camera, editor)
- 2006 "Landscape", experimental documentary film about Jerusalem, 12 min. (director, camera, editor)
- 2007 "Washtoobe", documentary film about a Holocaust Memorial, 15 min. (director, camera, editor)

## LETTER TO DAVID BROZA FROM PETER YARROW

Brother David,

I finally saw the finished film uninterrupted from beginning to end, on the computer with good "cans" earphones and no distractions.... and it's brilliant, moving, devastating, emotionally uplifting, and a shining triumph.

Through the music and the physicality of East and West Jerusalem, the personal stories of the players and the singers from Jerusalem, Palestine, and the refugee camp, the hip-hop artists, the Jerusalem Choir, Steve Earle, Mira Awad, Issa and all of the others.... but especially through you, something much greater than the pieces combined emerged.

At a time when the fatigue from the Gaza war has left so many of us numb and confused as to where to go, although it may be released at what one might think is the worst of all possible times because everyone I know wants to escape from, or take a break from, the seemingly endless and intractable conflict, your film becomes a beacon.... a breath of hope and a view onto the long pull of history that eclipses the momentary ups and downs of events.

This is the real story. It's a glimpse into the unguarded hearts of people who, in their innocent trust in what you proposed, gathered in the pool of light and love. You leading by example, without trying too hard and without artifice, simply living what peace is all about.

There are no huge bangs of cymbals that proclaim it.... instead, it unselfconsciously emerges through the language of the beautiful, touching and wonderfully integrated sounds of the cultures and traditions of all the instrumentalists, musicians, and singers that cross the divide into a fellowship that is as natural a breathing, as sweet as the love that's in the musical parts being played, and as restorative as a breeze that fills the room with the fragrance of the birth of what is created when music is played with such gracious, naked, joyous and deeply heartfelt oneness.

For all those who say there is no road to peace, all they have to do is watch this film to find out that peace is possible. Peace exists. It's right here, right now, and immediately available if we want to step through that door and enter through kind of window of possibility, of reality, that you have opened for us.

Peace is just as easy as that, and the courage that you had to simply do it, confound the naysayers and let it happen as it did, is truly awesome and brings me to tears.

Each and every song is exactly right - written with humor, with irony, with great love, with total honesty, with poetry and with absolute authenticity.

The production of each and every song is equally wonderfully - taking the languages and the customs and the colors of the different musical cultures and blending them so that they have the same graceful naturalness as the coming-together of each and every one of the people.

Throughout it all, you are the voice of adamant belief; a belief so strong that you assert that even if no one shows up, this endeavour will be achieved. It is that determination and unstoppable force of your loving acceptance of whatever surrounds you as being your backdrop - one of conflict, of the calls for the deaths of Jews or Palestinians, of the hopelessness of a refugee camp without trees or the soil in which they can grow - whatever it is, you are confident that when the music is shared, there will be light, and love. To me, in those moments something greater than hope is created. This is the creation of the dream for that moment in time. It's not just a hope! It's a tangible truth. Peace has come. Peace is possible. Peace can come again.

And the beauty of the way you tell it in this film is that peace is something that is created out of togetherness, sweetness, intuitive goodness and trust.

Creating peace does not require great intellect. It does not need great proclamations that come from bargaining and twisting and threats and fear and subjugation – nor even from compromise. Peace, as you've shown and created it in your film, can just *be*.

You've proved it. The emperor has no clothes. Peace is here and all we need to do is catch it in the strains of the music in your film, in the hugs between you and Issa, in the joy of the children singing, in the painful stories of some of the musicians and singers that are told with what has been once called "the unbearable lightness of being".

Catch it. Dance it. Don't crush it with a mind filled with residual fear and logic that leads to nothingness.

Just accept it as a gift and let it stay in your heart as something to visit as you continue on in your life. When you remember it, it will lift you beyond the pain of the past, the impossibility of the resolution of the moment, the confusion or the fatigue and help you carry on with the knowledge that what we all seek is not something we need to find some day in the future. It is here. It only needs to be lived, more and more, each day, by each one of us.

Your film, David, will be a great teacher for this time in our lives and for the times of many generations to come.

I suspect that you may not have even intended for it to be what it is. I suspect it will take some of us naming it from the outside. You've lived it, and it's a personal triumph as well as a great gift to us all.

Thank you with all my heart.

Love,

Peter

*Peter Yarrow (born May 31, 1938) is an American singer who found fame with the 1960s folk music trio Peter, Paul and Mary. Yarrow co-wrote (with Leonard Lipton) one of the group's greatest hits, "Puff, the Magic Dragon". He is also a political activist and has lent his support to causes that range from opposition to the Vietnam War to the creation of Operation Respect, an organization that promotes tolerance and civility in schools.*



## LETTER TO DAVID BROZA FROM DROR MOREH

The Nobel Prize winner for Literature, Marios Vargas Llosa, wrote that every time his pessimism rises regarding the 'extremism in Israel', something happens that brings him hope.

That is how I felt when I watched David Broza's film "East Jerusalem West Jerusalem." Peace will only come from below, from contact and communication between people from both sides, a connection that will seep into all levels of society.

In a time when peace seems further away than ever before, David Broza manages to put opposing sides together through the exemplary way medium of his music. David and his partners in this project show that regardless of what the politicians say, as long as there is faith and good will amongst those who stand on opposite sides from each other, peace is possible.

The film "East Jerusalem West Jerusalem" is a must-see for anyone who believes in coexistence, in peace, in hope, and in the ability to build bridges and connect through the arts and music. And, especially, it should be seen by those who want and believe in the ability of these two peoples, Israeli and Palestinian, to achieve peace between themselves.

*Dror Moreh (b. 4 November 1961) is an Israeli cinematographer and director. His film The Gatekeepers (2012) was nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the 85th Academy Awards. The film attracted attention partly due to its controversial interviews with the head of Israel's Security Agency (Shin Bet). Moreh said, "I think that those guys who implement the power and force... understand that power and force can lead you up to a certain point, and beyond that, you have to take other measures." His first film as director was Sharon, an investigation into the appeal of Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon.*

## FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

### OFFICIAL SELECTION:

Woodstock Film Festival  
San Francisco Jewish Film Festival  
The Santa Cruz Jewish Film Festival  
Washington Jewish Film Festival  
Portland Jewish Film Festival  
Palm Beach International Film Festival  
Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival  
Jewish Motifs International Film Festival  
Atlanta Jewish Film Festival



## About Film Movement

Launched in 2002, Film Movement is a full-service North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films, based in New York City. Film Movement has released more than 250 feature films and shorts from 50 countries on six continents, including top prize winners from Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Berlin, Tribeca and other prestigious festivals. Film Movement releases its films through numerous distribution channels, including thousands of art-house cinemas, universities and libraries; home video; television outlets; cable video on demand; digital platforms; and in-flight entertainment. For more information, please visit [www.filmmovement.com](http://www.filmmovement.com).

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