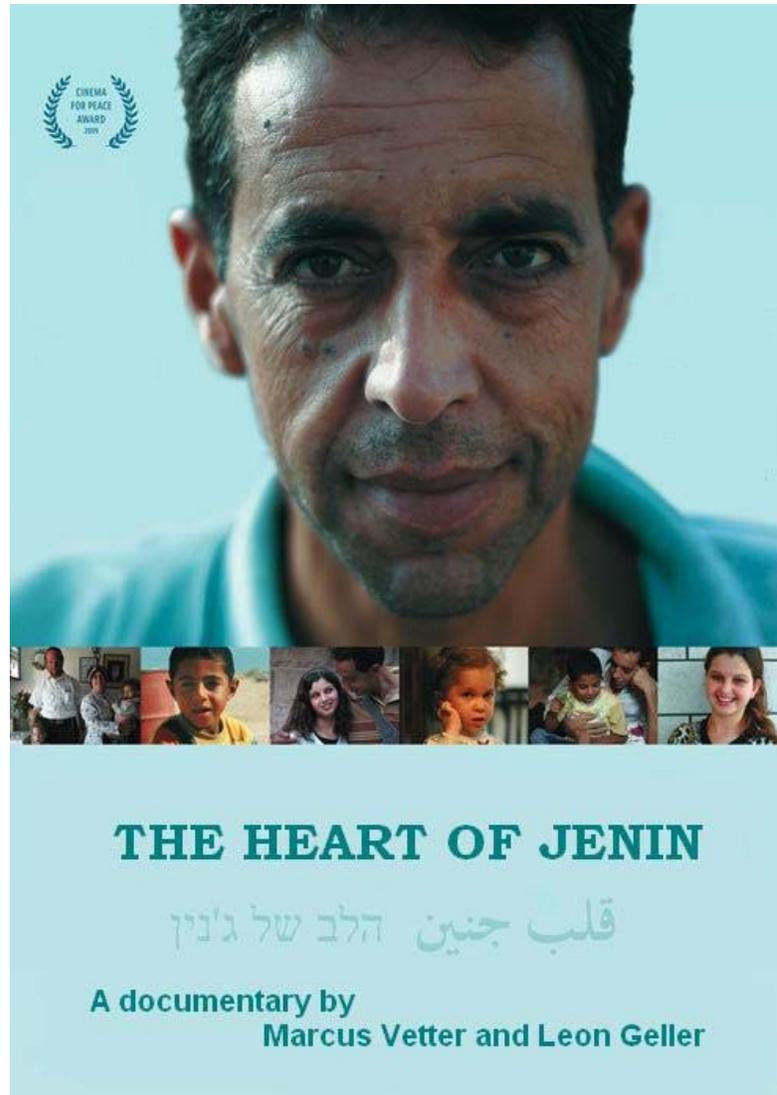




presents



**In commemoration of the the 60th year of existence of
UNRWA – The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine
Refugees in the Near East
and
The UN International Day of Peace – 21 September**

“The Heart of Jenin”

Content

When a 12-year-old Palestinian boy was killed in the West Bank city of Jenin by Israeli soldiers who mistook his toy gun for the real thing, it could have been just one more blip on the news: one more war, one more child, one more human tragedy that ripped the heart out of a family and a community, but rippled no further into the world’s consciousness...

But Ahmed Khatib’s tragic death unexpectedly turned into a gift of hope for five Israelis whose lives were on the line: while overwhelmed with grief, Ahmed’s parents consented to donating their son’s organs. Suddenly, amid the violence and entrenched hatred surrounding an intractable conflict, a simple act of humanity rose above the clamour and captured worldwide attention.

Two years after this remarkable gesture, we follow Ismael, the boy’s father, to Israel, into the occupied territories, to the people who have learnt to live with everyday conflict and violence and yet have not given up their hope of peace.

The film received several awards. The Cinema for Peace – Gala 2009 in Berlin honoured “The Heart of Jenin” with the “Cinema for Peace Award for Most Valuable Documentary of the Year” for promoting reconciliation between Jewish and Arab inhabitants.

“I remember my son Ahmed and I’m realizing that Ahmed’s organs were really a message of peace for all the people all over the world. I hope I won’t be the only one who is carrying this message of peace”

Ismael Khatib



“Children can’t be your enemies. They are free of guilt.”

Marcus Vetter (Stage Director and Scriptwriter)

Marcus Vetter, was born in 1967 in Stuttgart, studied European Business Management in Worms, Buenos Aires and Madrid. After acquiring work experience at Bavaria Film in Munich, he continued his studies in Media at Tübingen University. Since 1994 he has worked as editor and producer of documentaries at the SDR and SWR. His autobiographical documentary “My father, the Turk” was awarded the ‘Prix Europa’ for documentaries in 2006. He also received the ‘Adolf-Grimme-Preis’ for the films “The Tunnel” - 2000 and “Where the money grows” - 2001. The movie “THE HEART OF JENIN” received the ‘Cinema for Peace Award’ in February 2009 in Berlin.



Marcus Vetter – Director’s Note

“In autumn 2007 I was called by EIKON in Berlin and asked if I wanted to participate in a project called THE HEART OF JENIN. Leon Geller had already directed some of the scenes in the hospital in 2005. I immediately accepted the offer: the topic and the idea of working with an Israeli director were very tempting. We often disagreed whilst working together, especially when we were talking about the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, because Leon Geller is a Jew. He wanted to focus on the relationship between Ismael Khatib and the girl Samah, who received the heart of the dead boy. In contrast, it was my intention to depict all the stages of the father’s journey and also to show the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis.”



Leon Geller (Stage Director and Scriptwriter)

Leon Geller grew up in New Jersey before moving to Israel where he completed his military service. He went on to study film and to work for Israeli television stations, where he produced documentaries including “Heavy Twenty” (2004) and “The Tel-Aviv University during The Lebanon War” (2006). His graduation film won 14 international awards and was nominated for an Oscar from the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences. Currently he is working for Israeli TV and on a new movie.

Leon Geller – Personal Director’s Note

“The tragic death of 12 year old Ahmed Khatib brought despair to the family in Jenin. After his son’s death the father had to make a difficult decision. He opted for life and thus changed his personal grief into a life saving miracle. I heard about the story on the morning of Ahmed’s death. On the same day I began producing the scenes. With my camera I followed the sequence of events that led to the donation of organs to children who now live a happy life. The families of the children owe great thanks to Khatib, because he gave them life. We all owe thanks to Khatib because he gave us hope.”

Project “Cinema Jenin”

The project “Cinema Jenin” was initiated by the filmmakers and protagonists of the highly acclaimed documentary “The Heart of Jenin”. The project aims at re-opening one of the largest cinemas on the West Bank, in the former refugee camp of Jenin. The cinema which presented a wide range of international film productions was closed in 1987 as a result of the first Intifada. Mr. Jaka Bizilj, the founder of Cinema for Peace, travelled to Jerusalem and Jenin on 1 June and 2 June 2009 in order to meet the initiators of the project and offer support for “Cinema Jenin”. The project was also offered support by the founder of Pink Floyd and creator of “The Wall” Roger Waters.



In order to ensure the long term success of the project, “Cinema Jenin” plans workshops with children and teenagers; these workshops will teach skills in filmmaking, computer science and English. Thus the children will not only help to rebuild the cinema, but also further support the project by maintaining the web site, working on subtitles as well as establishing and keeping contact with the international film market. The film theatre in Jenin aims at screening both cinematically challenging and popular productions and thus presenting a wide range of film genres. The opening of the cinema is set for April 2010 and will be accompanied by a film festival in Jenin.

The re-opening of the cinema in Jenin is a project Ismael Khatib feels passionately about, as it aims at promoting cultural exchange and understanding between Arabs and Jews. The project is supported by the foundation “Cinema Jenin” and Marcus Vetter, the director of “The Heart of Jenin”. Fakhri Hamad, one of the initiators of the project, is the general manager of the cinema.

Fakhri Hamad, Project Manager of Cinema Jenin

“I studied law, I was an activist in the Palestinian resistance during the first Intifada, although I was arrested twice by the Israeli army. My political attitude changed totally afterwards because of many reasons which I will talk about after the film. I am now one of the peace activists in the Palestinian community, I am full of hope we can make peace...”

CINE-ONU September - “The Heart of Jenin” commemorates UNRWA’s 60th anniversary* and the UN International Day of Peace – 21 September.

Speakers:

Fakhri Hamad – Project Manager Cinema Jenin

Matthias Burchard – Head of the UNRWA Representative Office in Brussels and Geneva

Moderator:

Antonio Vigilante – Director of the UN-UNDP Brussels Office

* The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (see attached leaflet)