

"My So-Called Enemy" festival win, Boston, Denver and more...



Rezan Makhoul and Lisa Gossels at the Hamptons International Festival

Dear Friends,

We recently returned from two wonderful experiences with "My So-Called Enemy" at the Woodstock Film Festival and the Hamptons International Film Festival. Our film played to sold out houses at both festivals. It was so special having Palestinian Rezan, visiting from East Jerusalem, at our Q&As in the Hamptons. And, for her to feel the film and feel an embrace, from a largely American audience.

"My So-Called Enemy" won the Jury Prize for "Best Film about Conflict and Resolution" at the Hamptons International Film Festival. It was validating, and such an honor, to receive this recognition at the festival.

Please join us--and tell your friends and colleagues--about our upcoming film festivals

Boston Jewish Film Festival

Thursday, November 4th at 7pm

Including a Q&A with director Lisa Gossels

For tickets: http://bjff.bside.com/2010/films/mysocalledenemy_bjff2010

Starz Denver Film Festival

Thursday, November 11th at 6:30pm

Saturday, November 13th at 5:00pm

Lisa Gossels will be joined by Melodye Feldman and Erin Breeze of Seeking Common Ground (Building Bridges for Peace) at both screenings

<http://www.denverfilm.org/festival/film/detail.aspx?id=23558&FID=54>

For the latest news on the movie, please follow us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/mysocalledenemy

Our website

www.mysocalledenemy.com

Press

"My So-Called Enemy" has received some very nice press at each of our film festivals. We were not looking for full reviews, but received them in Woodstock and the Hamptons.

From Silverdocs

The teenage girls who make such compelling protagonists in "My So-Called Enemy"... offer inspiring examples of reconciliation in that embattled region.

Anne Hornaday, The Washington Post

A provocative, balanced film that offers unexpected hope for resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Erin Petty, Washington City Paper

From The San Francisco Jewish Film Festival

A host of promising films... will make up the 30th edition of the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival. Of the documentaries, Lisa Gossels' "My So-Called Enemy" stands out.

Nigel M Smith, indiewire.com

From the Woodstock Film Festival

Coming of age films are often stunningly boring for those who have already come of age... When the tale of transition from childhood to adulthood is placed in a serious cultural context, when the film conveys distinctive challenges and unique paths, when the story is told by skilled filmmakers -- the interest is back! And the gray headed ones inch forward until they're perched on the edge of their seats. At the just concluded Woodstock Film Festival a film buff's pilgrimage to independent films in the fall foliage of the Catskill Mountains -- this gray haired reviewer saw two such films. Both had him perched. "My So-Called Enemy" is an insightful, moving, important film about not just adolescence but about the intractable Israel-Palestine conflict. Filmmaker Lisa Gossels takes us behind the deep anger and the hard divisions, behind a conflict that refuses to die, where we catch a glimpse of hope... And just what did happen when these girls returned home, home to Israel and to Palestine, home to where the entrenched hatred for "the other" is an epidemic? "My So-Called Enemy" records what happens. After the ten day peace camp in New Jersey, the film follows the girls for seven years. Yes, for seven years! "My So-Called Enemy" is an extraordinary documentary film that entertains while giving us insights into what the coming of age journey is like in societies very different from our own.

Stewart Nusbaumer, The Huffington Post

From the Hamptons International Film Festival

"My So-Called Enemy" is about a group of young women from opposite sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict who are brought together at a New Jersey leadership camp in 2002. They are educated, articulate, and like all human beings, biased by their own worlds and experiences... The viewer is granted the rare opportunity to witness the girls as they wrestle through emotions and experiences in a safe, supportive, and nonviolent setting, one that is far from their everyday realities... As emotions flare and perspectives are shared, the audience learns almost as much as the subjects in this eye-opening documentary... In Israel, the young women will prepare to join the army. In Palestine, they will grapple with inequity and restricted freedom. In the friendships that remain after camp is over, many of the young women hold on to the will to makes things better, even when a resolution isn't yet a glimmer on the horizon. This documentary, the second by Lisa Gossels of New York City, addresses the cold reality of war through the colorful and varied microcosm of life.

K.M., East Hampton Star

What exactly is it that bonds us as friends and what conflicts put us firmly in enemy camps?... Two films caught my attention for not only their skillful filmmaking but the drama they capture while exploring these very issues -- one a documentary and one a narrative film... Lisa Gossels' documentary which is in the Golden Starfish Films of Conflict and Resolution competition, "My So-Called Enemy," follows six Israeli and Palestinian teenage girls who travel to the U.S. in 2002 for a women's leadership program and camp in New Jersey called, "Building Bridges." The film follows them over the next seven years when they return to their respective lives with all the literal and figurative walls between them. We watch as an audience to see if these girls who were first positioned as enemies then become friends will be able to hold onto more of what they have in common than the forces which tear them apart... It is a fascinating and compelling portrait.

Heather Buchanan, hiphampton.com

Thank you for all of your e-mails after our first newsletter. We look forward to staying in touch and to seeing you at an upcoming screening of "My So-Called Enemy."

Warmest regards,

Lisa

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