

MEDALIA PRODUCTIONS, SIMA FILMS and FILMOPTION INTERNATIONAL  
Present



**Karlovy Vary**  
**International Film Festival**  
Proxima Competition

# TROPICANA

a film by  
OMER TOBI

Israel, Canada  
2024, 82 minutes







## **SYNOPSIS**

A lonely middle-aged woman divides her time between her monotonous job at the supermarket and taking care of her disabled mother and estranged family members. The mysterious murder of the head cashier at the supermarket, sends her on a journey into the depths of her repressed desire revealing her deep longing for warmth and human connection.

## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Omer Tobi is a filmmaker based in Jaffa, born to a family of Moroccan - Tunisian - Romanian origin. His shorts deal with queer and ethnic identity, and screened in many festivals, including Sundance, Locarno (Filmmakers Academy), BFI (flare) and won awards at AFI fest, Haifa FF, Aspen Shortsfest and more. In addition to his cinematic film work, Tobi also created a primetime drama series, **Topaz (HaYoreshet)**, for Keshet International. **Tropicana** is his first feature film.

## FILMOGRAPHY

**Set Me As A Seal Upon Thine Heart** / Director, Writer / 2017 / 13 min. / Fiction  
**Hounds** / Director, Writer / 2015 / 30 min. / Fiction  
**Fuck Off Berlin** / Director, Writer / 2012 / 12min. / Fiction  
**Topaz ("Hayoreshet")** / Director, Writer / 2021 / 500 min. (11 episodes) / TV series,  
Fiction

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

***Tropicana*** is a subtle exploration of the human existential condition. The film dives into the experience of alienation and emotional loneliness and searches within it for signs of redemption, for possibilities of closeness and warmth. For the heroine of the film and her environment - an emotional and intimate existence is swallowed up in the hectic day-to-day actions, that erase any personal identity and turn the heroine who performs them into a kind of ghost - to a transparent service provider whose entire existence in the world is the performance of task after task while enjoying a cigarette and means of self-destruction that bring her closer to a long-awaited death.

***Tropicana*** is based on my experiences growing up in a conservative desert suburb. Much has been said about the periphery in Israeli cinema, in ***Tropicana*** I investigate how the distant peripheral geography affects the shaping of sexual identity. The film is a meeting between graphic depictions and softness, between delicacy and noise - amidst all these, a woman struggles for her desire to feel and be present. The film is a minimalistic journey that describes the unbearable bureaucracy on the way to an emotional and physical encounter, a close encounter with another human - an encounter of softness that allows one to see the people in it. A meeting that strives to save the existential experience from the abyss of loneliness, even if only for one moment.

# MAIN CREDITS

TROPICANA

Starring  
IRIT SHELEG

Directed and written by  
OMER TOBI

Cast  
RIVKA BACHAR  
AMIR ISHAR  
LIRIT BALABAN  
ILANIT BEN-YAAKOV  
RINAT MATATOV  
DOVER KOZASHVILLI

Produced by  
MEDALIA PRODUCTIONS, SIMA FILMS

Co-produced by  
FILMOPTION INTERNATIONAL

Producers  
HILLA MEDALIA, GIL SIMA

Co-producers  
PAUL CADIEUX

Countries of production  
ISRAEL, CANADA

Cinematography by  
PHILIPPE LAVALETTE, CSC

Editing by  
GUY NEMESH

Production design by  
BEN-ZION PORAT

Costumes by  
NELY HOROWIC

Make-up by  
JANICK SABOURIN-POIRIER

Music by  
Adam Weingrod, BLAISE RIVAL EMARD, GORDON NEIL ALLEN

Sound by  
VICTOR HAYEUR, BLAISE RIVAL EMARD

Sound mix by  
GORDON NEIL ALLEN

Casting Director  
LIMOR SHMILA

Line Producer  
URIA KEDEM

Online Editing and Color Grading  
PHILIPPE CARBONNEAU

VFX by  
JULIEN CHABOT-PAQUET





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**SIMA**FILMS



**Filmoption**