

A movie poster for the film 'God of the Piano'. The background is a warm-toned photograph of a woman's face in profile, looking towards the right. In the background, a pianist is seated at a piano on a stage, illuminated by a spotlight. The title 'GOD OF THE PIANO' is written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters on the left side of the image. Below the title, the text 'A FILM BY ITAY TAL' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

# GOD OF THE PIANO

A FILM BY ITAY TAL

## Cast

Naama Preis (Anat), Zeev Shimshoni (Arieh), Andi Levi (Idan),  
Leora Rivlin (Or), Eli Gornstein (Baruch), Ami Weinberg (Avri),  
Ezra Dagan (Yoel), Shimon Mimran (Raphael), Ron Bitterman  
(Hanan), Alon Openhaim (Dror).

## Crew

Director and Scriptwriter: *Itay Tal*  
Director of Photography: *Meidan Arama*  
Executive Producer: *Hila Ben-Shushan*  
Editing: *Itay Tal*  
Music: *Roie Shpigler, Hillel Teplitzky*  
Music Performance: *Eran Zvirin*  
Production Design: *Shir Kleiman*  
Lighting Director: *Raanan Berger*  
Costume Design: *Neta Shenitzer*  
Sound: *Nir Aviam*  
Sound Mixer: *Shahaf Vegshel / DB studios*  
Colorist: *Peleg Levi*  
Casting: *Itay Tal, Shani Egozin, Hila Ben-Shushan*





## Synopsis

Anat (Naama Preis, Best Actress winner at the Jerusalem Film Festival) has never been able to reach her father's exacting musical standards, so the family's hope of producing a talented composer rests on her unborn son. After giving birth to a deaf child, Anat takes drastic measures to ensure that he becomes the musical prodigy her father always wanted. But when the boy grows up indifferent to achieving his destiny as a great pianist, Anat is forced to stand up to her father and confront the harsh realities of her past.

## Directors Statement

When the idea for this movie first came to mind, I had yet to come to the realization that there would be a piano involved. The same thing happened with my two previous films. They started as scripts totally devoid of this musical instrument and, in some mysterious way, it found its way to the heart of the plots. The only major difference is that in *God Of the Piano* I dared to ask why.

Why is it that for so many years I dreamt about playing the piano, but never dared to buy one? Why is it that when I did purchase one, I never dared touching it? What does this miraculous instrument harbor that creates such dissonance within me? The unfolding of Anat's story - that of the main character of my film - unraveled the chirography for the dance I had with the piano for so many years.





It is not by chance that Anat's entire world revolves around music. Not a single act or scene fails to deal with her arduous struggle towards achieving her musical ambitions. Her extreme behavior sometimes surprises even me. She sacrifices everything for the sake of her mission, including her own musical career. Except for the score that she performs in the first scene, she refrains from playing or composing even a single note until the very end. This left me with a real quandary - what is she fighting for? What is she trying to prove and to whom?

There are many ambitious and uncompromising people among us who will do whatever it takes to reach the next stage of their ladder. But sometimes it seems that we forget to consider if our ladder is leaning against the right wall. As I see it, Anat forgot what "playing" really means or, sadly enough, she never really knew. And this is because no one ever showed her. The thing that made her father throw away his compositions is the same thing that made her stop playing, and the same thing that prevented me from even trying. What is this thing?

Isn't music like dance? Don't we also perform art for the sake of joy? What happens when music is treated as a mere tool, a tool not only to accomplish professional goals but also to gain self worth, to gain love? I believe this question does not apply only to music or art, and the fact that we cannot really make music without "playing" it, turns this endeavour into a very interesting subbase on which this issue can be raised. It is the exposure of this question that made me so passionate about creating God of The Piano.

