



# God Of The Piano

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*

## Production

Producers: *Itay Tal, Shani Egozin*

Production Company: *Movie Makers*

## International Sales

*Film Republic*

# God Of The Piano

by *Itay Tal*

80 min, colour, Israel 2019



## Synopsis

Music is all she has. Anat has never been able to reach her father's musical standards and her hope for fulfillment is dependent on the embryo that is in her womb. When the baby is born deaf she cannot accept it and takes extreme measures to ensure that her child will be the composer that her father always wanted. But when the young pianist doesn't respect his grandfather, his own glory remains uncertain. Now, Anat will have to stand up to her father.

## Film's Trailer



## 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.



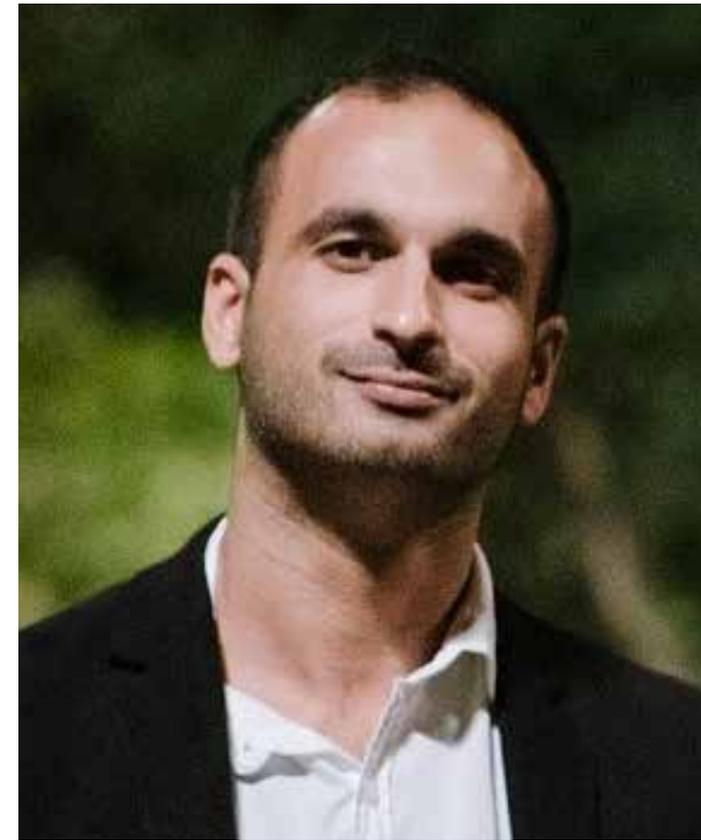


## Itay Tal | Director & Producer

Itay Tal has been directing films for the last 12 years. He studied in the Department of Film and Television at Tel Aviv University and places the story as the heart of filmmaking. Itay wrote and directed several short films amongst them: *When You Played* (JFS 2012, Montreal World Film Festival, 2012). He is a co-founder of “MovieMakers” - a film production company in Tel Aviv. Previously, Itay edited dozens of films and his knowledge in the field allows him to plan the editing of his films while still writing the script. His deep connection to music and its effect on human lives is prevalent in almost all of his works.

## Meidan Arama | Director of Photography

Meidan studied in the Department of Film and Television at Tel Aviv University. He filmed dozens of short films, television dramas and feature films which were screened in festivals around the world. Two of them won ‘Best Film’ in the Tribeca Film Festival in Manhattan (*Stiches by Adya Imri-Or, 2012*) and the Mar Del Plata Film Festival in Argentina (*People That Are Not Me by Hadas Ben-Aroya, 2016*). Meidan served as director of photography in all of Itay’s recent films. Meidan successfully harmonizes between visual decisions and the storytelling and is very involved in every aspect of the film’s making - from location, lightning, art, dressing all the way to the story itself. Itay and Meidan’s common language allows them not only to meticulously plan every shot but also to seize moments that spontaneously occur on set.



## Shani Egozin | Producer

Shani is a Graduate of 'Tisch' Film School in Tel Aviv University. In the Past several years Shani directed and produced 6 short films.

Her first step into the world of production was through the establishment of voluntary work in the periphery area of Israel. With her experience in organizing many individuals around big projects Shani entered her film studies with a natural inclination to producing and directing.

Today she combines yoga teaching while directing and producing cinema. She participates in the association JAF-FAAM, while producing bilingual (Arabic and Hebrew) film activities in the city of Jaffa.



## Hila Ben-Shushan | Executive Producer

Even before studying at the Department of film at Tel Aviv University, producing a major source of inspiration for Hila Ben-Shushan. Over the years she has produced films and TV shows in diverse fields, amongst them *The Pit by Itamar Lapid* (Lucarno Film Festival 2012) *Drops by Pini Tavger* (Venice Film Festival Official Selection, Best Short Award, JFS, 2013). Hila established her own film production company - Hila Ben-Shushan productions - which produced TV shows such as *Yerushalem by Levi Zini* (TV, 2016). She also devotes time to producing social films and educational films for youth. These have been screened worldwide.



## Eran Zvirin | Pianist

At the age of 3, Eran Zvirin's response to music lessons in kindergarten was exceptional and he already knew it was his vocation. He is an honors graduate of the Thelma Yellin School and holds a bachelor's degree from the Music Academy at Tel Aviv University. Eran has been a member of the Ramat Hasharon Conservatory for the past 18 years as the coordinator of the piano department and as a piano teacher. He takes part in many projects in the fields of classical and pop music, writing and composing, accompanying singers and performances around the country while participating in recordings and television programs. His dedication, experience, talent and unique interpretation brought life to all the classical and original music which he performed and recorded in *God Of The Piano*.



## Hillel Teplitsky | Music Composer

Hillel Teplitsky is an honors graduate of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance and is now studying film composing at Berklee College Of Music. After listening to some of his materials, Itay immediately knew that he was the right person to write specific pieces for the film. Hillel also instructed the actors on how to play their parts.

## Roie Shpigler | Music Composer

Roie Shpigler is a graduate of Composition in the Rimon School of Jazz and Contemporary Art. It is not the first time Itay and Roie have working together, as Roie wrote the main theme for Itay's previous film: *When You Played (2012)*. Roie brings to his work years of experience in writing and producing music for festivals, TV shows and films. He composed three original pieces that are tailored to fit the character of Raphael Ben Ari and the specific mood of the scenes in which they are played.



Cast





Naama Preis

Naama Preis is an Israeli actor and dancer. Her diverse experience gives her the ability to play challenging and complex roles. Several of the films she took part in premiered in the Cannes Festival, as well as on major TV shows on national channels. Naama appears on one of Israel's most popular TV political satires *Eretz Nehederet* (Wonderful Land). She's has performed in major roles in theatre such as Dorian Gray at the The National Theater Habima and *In the Tunnel* at the Gesher Theater.

#### **Filmography**

*From The Diary Of A Wedding Photographer* by Nadav Lapid (Cannes Semaine de la Critique 2016)

*Beyond The Mountains and Hills* by Eran Kolirin (Cannes Semaine de la Critique 2016)

*The Kindergarten Teacher* by Nadav Lapid (Cannes Semaine de la Critique 2015)



## Ze'ev Shimshoni

Zeev Shimshoni was born in Tel Aviv, studied acting at the NIssan Nativ Acting School.

He has been seen in many productions at The Haifa Theater, The Khan Theater in Jerusalem, The Cameri Theater in Tel Aviv, as well as in award winning Fringe and Festival shows. Zeev has also starred in numerous television series and played major roles in Israeli dramas and feature films.

### **Filmography**

*A New Spirit* by Doron Eran (2017)

*The Man in the Wall* by Evgeny Ruman (2015)

*Never Too Late* by Ido Fluk (2011)

*The Arbitrator* by Reshsef Levi and Shay Kanot (2007 - 2011, TV)

*Torn Apart* by Jack Fisher (1990)

*Ha-Flash* by Doron Eran (1987)

*Soldier of the Night* by Dan Wolman (1984)



## Andy Levi

Andy Levi is a talented young piano player. He is an honors student at the Israel Conservatory of Music in Tel Aviv. Andy had no experience in acting and has never previously participated in films. This helped him project a fresh and natural performance in front of the camera while bringing his own rich experience from the world of music.

## Ron Bitterman

Ron Bitterman has copious and broad experience in theatre. While playing major roles in Beer Sheva, Haifa and Habima National theatres, Ron also took parts in TV shows - *Prisoners of War by Gideon Raff* (Israeli Academy Award winning show in 2013) And *The Greenhouse* (Giora Chamizer, 2012)



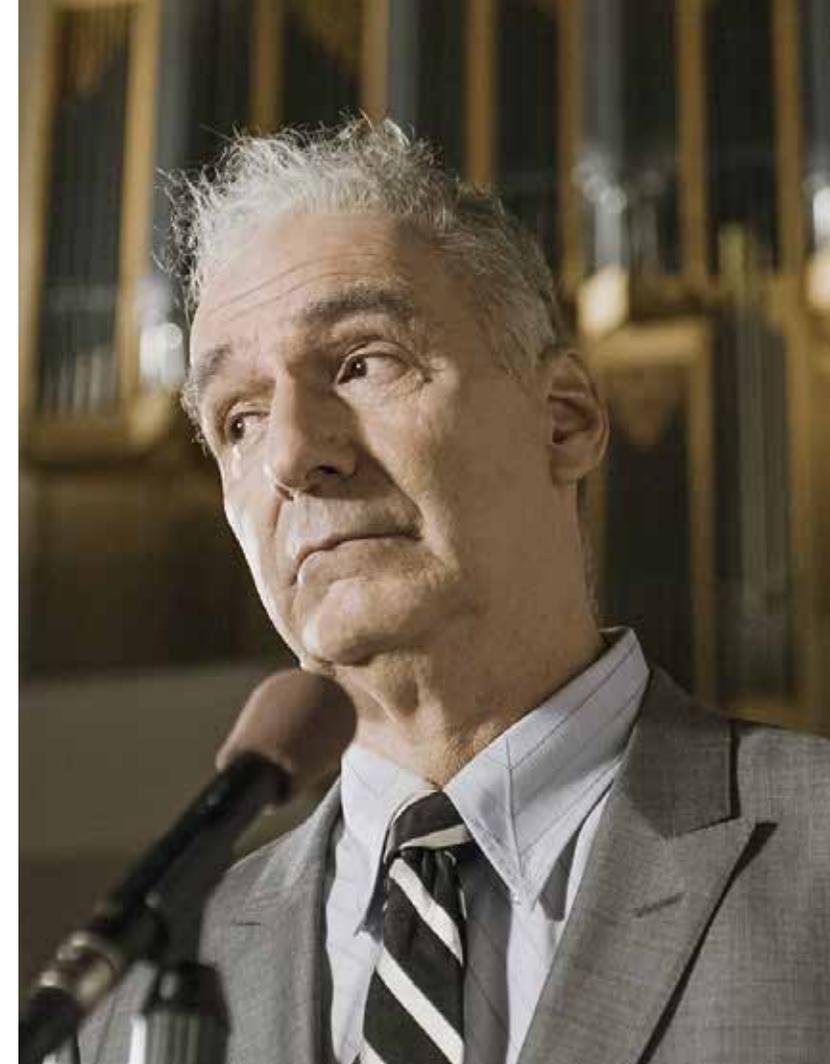
## Leora Rivlin

Leora Rivlin started her acting career at the age of 13. She studied at The London Academy for Music and Dramatic Arts. Leora won The Rovina prize, Klachkin prize, Finkel prize, Kinor David prize, best actress of the year 2001 for her part in *Return to the Desert*, best actress in 2004 for her part in *The Accident* and best actress of the year in 2014 for her part in *The Revisionist*. Along with an intensive acting career, Leora wrote several plays which were performed at the Habima National Theatre.



## Eli Gornstein

Eli Gornstein is an Israeli actor, singer and a dubbing artist. He won the Israeli Theatre Award of 2012 and amongst the films in which he participated, he had a major role in one of the most acclaimed Israeli films - *Gett: The Trial of Viviane Amsalem* (2014, Ronit Elkabetz and Shlomi Elkabetz) which premiered in Cannes Semaine de la Critique and won dozens of awards worldwide.





## Alon Openheim

Alon Openheim is a graduate of the Yoram Levinstein Acting Studio. He has a B.Ed. in Theater Directing from the Kibbutzim College and an M.A. in Directing from Tel Aviv University. While performing and directing dozens of shows in theatres around Israel, Alon also finds time to teach. He took the 2010 Ruth Dyches camera acting workshop and, in 2014, the Ivana Chubbuck method course. He also participated in Films and TV shows amongst them: *Metim Lerega by Paz brothers* (TV series, 2016), *The Man who Tried to Prevent War by Gideon Genani* (2017), *Ismach Hatani by Emil Ben-Shimon* (2016).



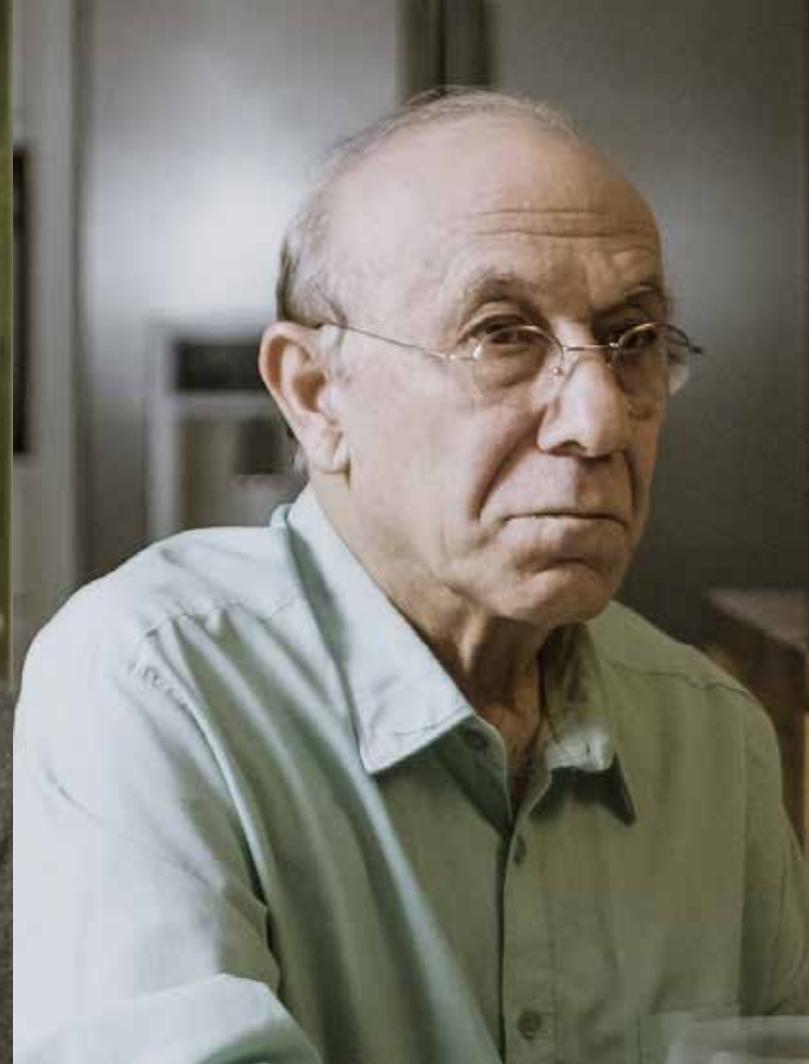
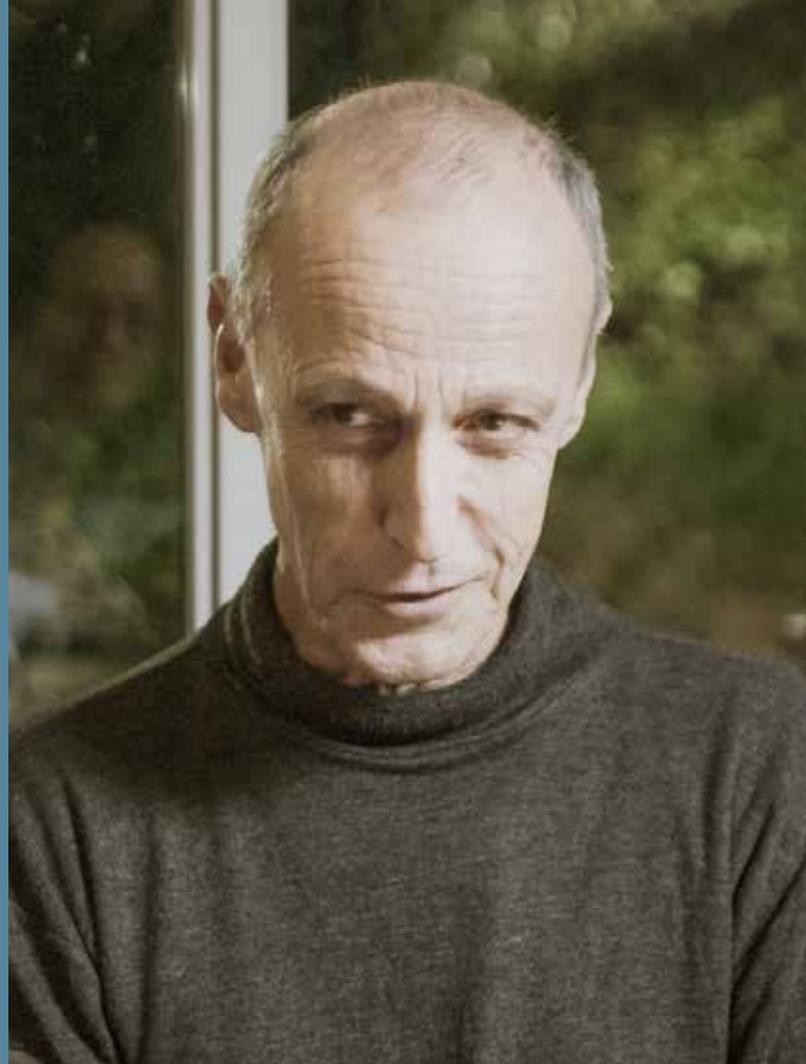
## Shimon Mimran

Shimon Mimran is a graduate of the Tel Aviv University Theatre Department. Participating in dozens of Israeli TV shows and films, Shimon won the Best Actor Award of the Cameri Theatre in 1996. Along with acting, he teaches acting at the Yoram Levinstein Acting Studio. Amongst the films he took part in recent years are *Longing by Savi Gabizon* (2016) and *Out In The Dark by Michael Mayer* (2012).

## Ami Weinberg

Ami Weinberg is an actor with decades of experience in films, TV shows and theatre. From the fringe theater scene to working with international directors such as Steven Spielberg, Ami took part in dozens of productions.

He is known for his performance in *Munich* (2005, *Steven Spielberg*), *Ha-Shminiya* (2005, *Giora Chamitzer*) and *The Gordin Cell* (TV, 2012, *Daniel Syrkin*).



## Ezra Dagan

Ezra Dagan studied acting and mime. Other than taking roles in Israeli and international films such as *Schindler's List* (*Steven Spielberg*), Ezra has participated in dozens of TV and theatre productions since the early 1960s. Among this many awards that Ezra has received is the Habima National Theatre Tenne prize for acting in 1974.



## Itay Tal | Director & Producer

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