HEBREW LANGUAGE FILMS IN THE UCSB LIBRARY COLLECTION

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Features

Ajami
“Shakespearian in its scope and themes; revenge, loyalty, hope and despair, draws us into the lives of two brothers fearing assassination; a young refugee working illegally to cover his mother’s medical expenses; a cop obsessed with finding his missing brother. Through this dramatic collision of different worlds, we witness cultural and religious tensions simmering beneath the surface and the tragic consequences of enemies living as neighbors.”
Media Collection PN1997.2.A34 2010

Alila
“For the apartment dwellers, every action creates a ripple unknowingly felt by all. Gorgeous libertine Gabi’s loud, violent trysts with her physically dominant, emotionally unavailable lover Hezi bring down the wrath of their disgusted neighbors. Mali reluctantly joins her neurotic ex-husband Ezra in his search for their army deserter son. Ezra’s illegal construction site and undocumented immigrant workers in turn prompt the hermit Schwartz to relive the horrors of the Nazi death camps, as his Filipino companion Linda helplessly looks on.”
Media Collection PN1997.2 .A444 2004

ha-Asonot shel Ninah = Nina’s tragedies
“A 14-year old boy is sent to live with his aunt after her husband dies in a terrorist attack.”
Media Collection PN1997.2 .A836 2005

Asfalt Tsahov = Yellow Asphalt
"As western culture gradually began to infiltrate the Judean desert, once the sole domain of the Bedouin tribes, the convergence of contemporary mores and ancient traditions was unavoidable. At the edge of modern Israel and the Bedouin way of life, three dramatic encounters between two very different societies occur: the tragic death of a Bedouin boy on the asphalt road cutting the desert in two; the impossible marriage between a German woman and her Bedouin husband; and the forbidden love affair of a Bedouin maid and her Israeli employer."
**Bufor = Beaufort**


“After 18 years dug into a heavily fortified mountain deep in occupied Lebanon, the last Israeli soldiers enduring constant bombardment at the site of the ancient crusader stronghold called Beaufort receive orders to abandon their posts, detonate the warren of bunkers in which they have tenuously clung to life and victory, and come home. Amid redoubled shelling from Hezbollah, the fort’s brash, impossibly young commander Liraz (Oshri Cohen) struggles to keep himself and his men safe from a faceless enemy that would turn withdrawal into massacre, and transform a just cause into a lost cause.”

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**Darb al-Tabbanat = The Milky Way**


“In 1964, in a small Arab village in the Galilee, the villagers living under military rule must cope with the delicate coexistence of social ritual and deep, unhealed wounds.”

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**Echoes of Conflict**


“Three short films revolving around the relations between Palestinians and Israelis during the time of the Intifada: Seret Lailah = Night Movie, No teh metas = Don't Get Involved, and Ha-Keluv = The Cage.”

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**‘Ets ha-Domim Tafus = Under the Domim Tree**


"Based on the autobiographical book by Gila Almagor. The film is set in the early 50's and follows a group of teenage orphans who survived the Nazi concentration camps and now live on a kibbutz in Israel."

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**‘Ets limon = The lemon tree = Shajarat limun**

[Ramat ha-Sharon: Globus, 2008] (106 min) Hebrew & Arabic with English subtitles. Israel. Dir. ‘Eran Riklis

“Salma Zidane lives in a tiny Palestinian village on the West Bank. She is 45 years old and a widow. Her children have left home, and she is alone. When the Israeli minister of defense builds a house on the other side of the green line, Selma’s lemon trees come to the attention of his bodyguards. Her trees are a security risk. They can hide terrorists and impede the bodyguards in their work. In any case, these Palestinian lemon trees simply get in the way of the powerful Minister’s superior security needs. The lemon trees were
planted by Salma’s family many generations ago--they are synonymous with Salma’s family history. Salma gets herself a lawyer. But Ziad Daud is up against a battery of clever military lawyers, all of whom are covered by the top brass. It’s an unfair battle, that isn’t made any easier when the 45-year-old widow falls in love with her lawyer, a divorcee ten years her junior--a scandal as far as her Palestinian neighbors are concerned. On the other side of the grove, Salma’s struggle to keep her trees has not gone unnoticed. The defence minister’s wife, who has become more and more lonely and unhappy as her husband’s political career has blossomed, feels increasingly drawn to Salma as the unfair battle between her husband and their Palestinian neighbors drags on. An invisible bond connects these two very different women who find themselves on the brink of a new phase in their lives.”

Media Collection PN1997.E84 2008

**Hamsin = Hot Wind: Galilee, Israel 1982**
"A Jewish landowner and his Arab worker work side by side to build a dream ranch in the Galilee. When some Arab lands in the area are about to be confiscated by the government, tensions flair up. Efforts are made to try and bring calm, but it seems futile as the "hamsin," the hot desert wind, sends temperatures and tempers soaring to explosive heights. "
Media Collection PN1997.H345 1988

**Hatunah meuheret = Mariage Tardif = Late Marriage**
"Zaza has run out of time. He’s almost 32 and his family wants to see him married. But tradition dictates that Zaza has to choose a young virgin. She must be beautiful and from a good family, preferably rich. What his parents don’t know is that Zaza is already in love."  
Media Collection PN1997.H37 2003

**ha-Hesdar = Time of Favor**
"Winner of six Israeli Academy Awards. This film weaves an intricate tale of passion, loyalty and conspiracy amidst the contemporary political powder-keg and timeless austere beauty of Israel's West Bank."  
Media Collection PN1997.H4765 2000

**Hiyukh ha-Gedi = Smile of the Lamb**
"Two friends dream of an enlightened government on the West Bank, only to be forced into opposite camps because of circumstances beyond their control. This is a fable about
the nature of sacrifice, a contemporary melodrama about the dilemma of the Middle East, a political allegory, and a tale of friendships put to the test."

Kadosh = Sacred
"The story of two Hasidic sisters living in the Mea Shearim area of Jerusalem. Rivka and her husband are deeply in love, but he obeys his rabbi father and divorces her after 10 childless years of marriage. Rivka’s sister Malka loves a man who has left Hasidism after joining the army, but accepts the marriage her parents have arranged to the rabbi’s assistant."

Kalat ha-yam = Jaffa
"In the heart of Jaffa, Reuven’s garage is a family business. His daughter Mali and his son Meir, as well as Toufik, a young Palestinian, work there. No one suspects that Mali and Toufik have been in love for years. As the two lovers are secretly making their wedding arrangements, tension builds between Meir and Toufik"--imdb.com.
Media Collection PN1997.2.K354 2010

ha-Kayits Shel Aviyah = The Summer of Aviyah
"The story of one summer in the life of a ten year old girl, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, during the first years of Israel's independence. It is a personal story, based on the life of Gila Almagor, writer/producer and star of the film. Aviya's mother had been a partisan fighter during the war, with a number tattooed on her arm; she walked the thin line between sanity and madness. Aviya had lived in orphanages most of her life. This was the summer she would return home."
Media Collection PN1997.K384 2005

Kedmah = Kedma
"A group of European Jewish refugees arrive in Palestine in the critical year of 1948. Carried on deck of the freighter Kedma, they come ashore to find not the Promised Land, but a war torn desert in the bloody throes of transformation into the state of Israel. Rescued from a British Army ambush at beach side by Palmach Jewish guerrillas, the refugees are remade into soldiers expected to offer their lives to defend a nation that does not yet exist in a land they have never known."
Media Collection PN1997.K412 2004

Kelarah ha-Kedoshah = Saint Clara
"One of the most popular Israeli films of the 1990’s, this film presents a jumpy, highly energetic, lively, off-kilter Israel where love and the apocalypse seem interconnected. Beautiful Lucy Dubinchik stars as Clara, a Russian immigrant teenager whose clairvoyant powers create mayhem among the students at Golda Meir Junior High School."

**Kippur**

"The film takes place in 1973 during the Yom Kippur War, in which Egypt and Syria launched attacks in Sinai and the Golan Heights. Although the story is told from the perspective of Israeli soldiers, the film is far from being an exercise in propaganda. We are led by Weinraub (Liron Levo) and his friend Ruso (Tomer Ruso) on a day that begins with quiet city streets, but ends with death, destruction and devastation of both body and mind."
Media Collection PN1997.K57 2001

**Meduzot = Jellyfish**

"While Batya, a struggling waitress, cares for a mysterious child that appeared to her out of the sea. Newlywed Keren nurses a broken leg and a ruined honeymoon. Filipino migrant worker Joy tries to support her son back home. A reflection on making connections and confronting destiny in a deconstructed urban landscape."
Media Collection PN1997.M43 2007

**Mivtsa’ Yonatan = Operation Thunderbolt**

Special features: disc 2 is a 50 min. documentary entitled Operation thunderbolt.
Media Collection PN1997.M625 2004

**Nadyah = Nadia**

"The story of a sixteen year old Arab girl from an Arab village within Israel. Her family is involved in village life; her father is a farmer with progressive ideas. In order improve her future choices, Nadia decides to enroll in a Jewish high school, where she is confronted by the apprehension, resistance and prejudice of both her Arab friends and her new Jewish classmates."
Media Collection PN1997.N34 1995

**Or = Mon tresor**

"Ruthie and Or, a mother and her daughter, live in a small Tel Aviv flat. Ruthie has been a prostitute for the last twenty years. Or has tried many times to get her mother to quit working the street, but without success. The daily routine of the 18 year-old Or is an endless succession of petty jobs: washing dishes in a restaurant, cleaning staircases and collecting deposit bottles while attending high school whenever she can. Ruthie's health is worsening. After an umpteenth visit to her mother at the hospital, Or decides that this time, things must change for good."

Media Collection PN1997.O62 2005

**Sallah Shabati**
[United King Films, 2007] (110 min) Hebrew with English subtitles. Israel. Dir. Efraim Kishon

“The sharp, often hilarious satire that became the most successful film in Israeli history is about new immigrants Sallah and his family, who are left in a shack near their promised apartment and are abandoned for months.”

Media Collection PN1997.S257 2007

**The Syrian Bride = ha-Kalah ha-Surit = عروس سوريا**

"Mona’s wedding day may be the saddest of her life. Once she crosses the border into Syria, she will never be allowed back to her beloved family in the Druze village of Majdal Shams. Told with great humor and compassion, its story provides an emotionally stirring look at the human side of political conflict, focusing on the hopes and dreams of one family trapped in a no-man’s land between two nations."

Media Collection PN1997.2.S97 2006

**'Urs al-Jalil = Wedding in Galilee = Noce in Galilee**

"The elder of a Palestinian village under Israeli military rule wants permission to hold a traditional wedding for his son that will go past the imposed curfew. The Army commander agrees on the condition that he and his officers be invited as guests of honor at the ceremony. Director Michel Khleifi’s extraordinary first feature is an erotic and often compelling meditation on two conflicting cultures who attempt to put aside their differences for one long day of celebration."

Media Collection PN1997.N5258 2004

**West Bank Story**
[Ari Sandel, 2005] (22 min.) Israel and the U.S. Dir. Ari Sandel

"A musical comedy set in the fast-paced, fast-food world of competing falafel stands in the West Bank... David, an Israeli soldier, falls in love with the beautiful Palestinian cashier, Fatima, despite the animosity between their families' dueling restaurants."

Media Collection PN1997.2.W47 2005

**Yad Ilhahiyah = Divine Intervention**
[Arab Film Dist., 2004] (92 min) Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles. West Bank. Dir. Elia Suleiman
"In this darkly comic masterpiece, Palestinian director Elia Suleiman utilizes irreverence, wit, mysticism and insight to craft an intense, hallucinogenic and extremely adept exploration of the dreams and nightmares of Palestinians and Israelis living in uncertain times."
Media Collection PN1997.D499 2004

Yom Yom
[Kino on Video, 2005] (97 min) Hebrew with English subtitles. Israel. Dir. Amos Gitai
"In spite of blood ties to both Haifa's Jewish and Arab populations, Moshe leads a rootless existence. Grown weary of his impatient wife and ambivalent about his needy young mistress the only relationships Moshe doesn't complicate are with his devoted parents, Jewish Hanna and Arab Yussuf, and with Jules, Moshe's ne'er-do-well childhood friend. But when Jules' real estate developer brother moves to buy a prized piece of property from the Arab side of the family, Moshe's divided ancestry is put to the test."
Media Collection PN1997.Y5187 2006

Zikhron Devarim = Memory of Things
"The film depicts the spiritual disarray of three men in their thirties and forties, in the agitation and turmoil of Tel Aviv, the city created by Jewish pioneers in 1909. None of them has the life he had imagined."
Media Collection PN1997.D39 2001

Documentaries

August, a moment before the eruption
Media Collection PN1997.A952 2006

Deportation
Media Collection PN1997.A952 2006

Ekh hifsakti le-fahed ye-lamadeti le-ehov et Ariḳ Sharon = How I learned to Overcome My Fear and Love Arik Sharon
Media Collection PN1997.A952 2006

For My Children
[Women Make Movies, 2002] (65 min) Hebrew with English subtitles. Dir. Michal Aviad
"In October 2000, as the second Palestinian Intifada erupts, Israeli filmmaker Michal Aviad begins a video exploration about both the moral and mundane dilemmas she faces
every day in Tel Aviv. What begins with deceptive simplicity—a tender scene of sending the children off to school—quickly becomes a profound study of vulnerability and anxiety."

Media Collection DS119.765.F673 2002

**Forget Baghdad**

[Arab Film Distribution, 2002] (112 min) English, Hebrew, & Arabic with English subtitles. Dir. Samir

“Forget Baghdad offers a rare glimpse into a community which is little-known but extremely important in light of the current Middle East. Those known as "Sephardis," "Mizrahim," or "Arab Jews", that is people of Jewish religion and Arab culture, who have long found themselves caught between warring world-views. Uprooted virtually overnight at the founding of the modern Israeli state, many Sephardis lost first their homeland and then, with the escalation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, their very cultural identity. At a moment when the United States remains at war in Iraq, and when peace in the Middle East seems more and more out of reach, this especially timely documentary offers a much needed glimmer of sanity and hope. Protagonists: Shimon Ballas, Moshe (Moussa) Houri, Sami Michael, Samir Naqqash, Ella Habiba Shohat.”

Media Collection DS113.8.I72 F672 2002b

**Four friends = Pegishah hozeret**

[National Center for Jewish Film, 2006] (60 min) Hebrew with English subtitles

Four women -- Selma Dejani, daughter of an old Palestinian Moslem family; Wadad Shihade, a Palestinain Christian, originally from Jaffa; Olga Belkind, daughter of a prominent Zionist family; and Sharona Aharon, from ... Tel-Aviv -- who were roommates at an Angliican boarding school in Jerusalem in 1939, meet 50 years later for a reunion"

Media Collection DS126.5 .F687 2006

**G'eni ve G'eni = Jenny and Jenny**

[Women Make Movies, 2009] (60 min) Hebrew with English subtitles. Dir. Michal Aviad

"This moving, closely observed portrait of adolescence documents one summer in the lives of two 17 year old cousins named Jenny. As North African Jewish immigrants living on Israel's working class Mediterranean coast, the girls' changing environment provides a fascinating window into a culture both religious and secular."

Media Collection HQ799.I7 G45 2009

**ha-'Ir ha-levaneh = White city**

[Spielberg Jewish Film Archive, 1999] (75 min) Hebrew and English

Original short films about Tel Aviv filmed from 1926 to 1964; some are silent

ARTS Library DS110.T357 I754 1999

**Irak n'rol = Iraq'n' roll**

[Ruth Diskin Films, 2011] (54 min) Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles
"Salah and Daud Al-Kweiti were Jewish musicians living in Iraq in the 1930s. They are considered to be the creators of modern Iraqi music, and two of the greatest Arab musicians in history. In the 1950s they immigrated to Israel where no one paid attention to their music. Their glory vanished and they felt that their music had betrayed them. ... [Grandson] Dudu Tass decides to release an album, taking the original music of the Al-Kweiti brothers and playing [the music] in modern style and arrangement. Through this music, he attempts to bridge time space and culture, and heal the family’s pain."

Media Collection ML420.A5826 I73 2011

**Keep Not Silent**
"Despite fears of excommunication, three women secretly fight for their right to love within the restraints of the Orthodox and Ultra-Orthodox communities of Jerusalem. All three are considered "sinners", all three are lesbians. Through internet web-cams, windows and curtains, this film documents the individual path each woman has carved for herself, painfully caught between her sexual identity and her love for her children, husband, parents, community and God"

Media Collection BM729.H85 K44 2004

**My Israel :Revisiting the Trilogy**
Set of 4 films directed by Yulie Cohen Gerstel: **My Brother** (56 min); **My Land Zion** (57 min); **My Terrorist** (58 min); **My Israel** (2000-2008) (78 min)


**The New Samaritans**
[Alden Films, 2005] (53 min) Hebrew with English subtitles
"The Samaritans are one of the most enigmatic people living in Israel today. ... According to their genealogy records, they are directly descended from Adam, and have existed as an independent people for 3600 years. Although they observe most Jewish holidays, they have a separate Torah (Bible), and worship at Mount Gerizim in Shechem (Nablus), Israel, instead of in Jerusalem. Samaritans have also lived separate ethnically, never intermarrying with either Arabs or Jews. However, in recent years, due to the small number of Samaritans in the world--fewer than 900--and the inevitable inbreeding of their population, genetic disabilities have taken their toll, with 9% of their population being mute and retarded. It is this fear of having a disabled offspring that leads Yair and Rajaiiy to petition the High Priest of the Samaritans to marry outside the group. Yair and Rajaiiy are given permission by the High Priest to marry wives from Ukraine and Russia. They do so, bringing them back to Shechem to become part of the Samaritan community. The film follows the wives of Yair and Rajaiiy and shows their acculturation to the Samaritan religion. It also provides an introduction to this interesting remnant of a people who are prominently featured in the New Testament, and have been living in Israel for the past 2500 years"
"Neḳam aḥat mi-shete ‘enai = Avenge but one of my two eyes
[Arte Video, 2006] (100 min) Hebrew with English subtitles. Dir. Avi Mograbi
Media Collection PN1997.A952 2006

9 Star Hotel = Util tis’ nujum
[Koch Lorber, 2007] (78 min) Arabic & Hebrew with English subtitles
“A look at some of the many Palestinians who illegally cross the border into Israel looking for work, and how they share their food, belongings, and stories, as well as a fear of the soldiers and police.”
Media Collection DS119.7. N45 2007

al-Ramlah = Lev ha-Erets = Ramleh
[Women Make Movies, 2001] (58 min) Hebrew with English subtitles. Dir. Michal Aviad
"A timely and powerful look at the ideological, cultural and political conflicts in contemporary Israel, this highly original documentary profiles three seemingly disparate women residing in the town of Ramleh. Located in the heartland of the Israel, this former Palestinian territory serves as a microcosm of the beliefs, biases and conflicts of women living in the country today."
Media Collection HQ1728.5.R365 2001b

Saz
[Choices, 2006] (50 min) Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles. Dir. Gil Karni
“This provocative documentary goes behind the ghetto walls of Ramlah to look at a year in the life of budding Palestinian hip-hop star Sameh Zakout a.k.a. Saz. Growing up in a Jewish neighborhood as a third generation of a moderate family, Saz has had to learn to balance their traditional viewpoints with his strong feelings of insult and rage for the injustices his people have suffered. He does this through music, using it as a starting point for discussion with Israeli and Arab youth who have grown further apart since the recent Intifada. For Saz, music is a place where people who disagree can come together. It takes him to the clubs and neighborhoods of Tel Aviv, Haifa, and London. The film also looks at his relationship with his aging grandfather, a refugee of the 1948 war. Their conversations reveal their differing ideologies. "I don't see my Palestine being built by blood," says Saz. "It should be built by negotiations, not bombings in Tel Aviv. My bullets are my rhymes. My M-16 is my microphone."
Media Collection ML420.Z334 S29 2006

The Settlers
[First Run/Icarus Films, 2002] (58 min) Dir. Ruth Walk
"Israeli documentarist Ruth Walk directed this candid look at the lives of several Orthodox Jewish housewives, each raising large families in Tel Rumeidah, a small Israeli settlement inside the Palestinian West Bank."
Media Collection DS110.H4 S47 2002
The seven tapes: a documentary autobiography
[Yair Qedar, 2012] (52 min) Hebrew with English subtitles. Israel. Dir. Yair Qedar
“cinematic journey into the world of Yona Wallach, an Israeli poet, whose radical life
and poetry ended with her death at an early age, leaving behind a myth and a trail of
admirers. More than 25 years after her death, seven recorded tapes from her last
interview, which were made with Helit Yeshurun, are discovered. In these tapes, Wallach
confesses to her attraction to madness, her experiments with drugs, her relationship with
god and about the dangers of writing. The film weaves her testimony with interviews,
with rare archival footage, with her poems and with animation that revives Wallach’s
thoughts, images and visions.”
Media Collection PJ5054.W26 S35 2012

Tehorah = Purity, Breaking the Codes of Silence
[Women Make Movies, 2002] (63 min) Hebrew with English subtitles.
“Israeli filmmaker Anat Zuria examines the Tharat Hamishpaha, or Taharat
HaMishpacha (family purity), religious laws that are often seen as imposed by men to
shape women’s lives and sexuality. The filmmaker and her friends discuss their own
struggles with observance and adaptation of traditional practices to their changing lives,
exploring the meaning of purity to modern women.”
Media Collection BM702 .T34 2002

Trembling before G-d = Le-fanekha bi-re’adah
[Women Make Movies, 2003] (84 min) Hebrew, English, and Yiddish with English
subtitles Dir. Sandi Simcha Dubowski
“A documentary built around personal stories of gay and lesbian Hasidic and Orthodox
Jews. Portrays people who face a profound dilemma - how to reconcile their passion for
Judaism with the biblical prohibitions against homosexuality. Includes interviews with
closeted and out gay Orthodox and Hasidic Jews, including the first openly gay Orthodox
rabbi, Steven Greenberg.”
Media Collection BM729.H65 T74 2003

Wait, It's the Soldiers, I Have to Hang up Now
Media Collection PN1997.A952 2006

Waltz with Bashir = Vals ‘im Bashir
[Sony Home Entertainment, 2009] (90 min) Hebrew or English. Dir. Ari Folman
“An animated motion picture based on events in the director’s own life, involving his
attempts to both remember and verify his wartime experiences. After not being able to
recall the time he spent on an Israeli Army mission during the Lebanon War, Ari attempts
to unravel the mystery by traveling around the world to interview old friends and
comrades. As the pieces of the puzzle begin to come together, his memory begins to
return in illustrations that are surreal. At the end of the animated film is a very short part
of the film that shows real people dead and alive.”
Media Collection DS87.53.W35 2009
The Women Next Door
[Women Make Movies, 1992] (80 min) English, Hebrew, & Arabic. Dir. Michal Aviad
"A thoughtful and emotive documentary about women in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The film explores the roles that the Occupation designated for women on both sides and the questions it raises. In a world of occupation, what is the meaning of femininity, motherhood, birth, violence, compassion and solidarity between women?"
Media Collection HQ1728.5.W677 1992

Yaacov Ben-Dov: Father of Hebrew Film
[Ergo Media, 1993] (30 min) Dir. Yaacov Gross
"This video compilation presents scenes of Jewish life in Palestine from 1917 to 1933. Yaacov Ben-Dov shot more than 30 films encompassing the Zionist vision of the land of Israel. Historic figures are captured through the lens of his camera. Soldiers, workers, farmers, schoolchildren, and policemen also appear. Ben-Dov laid the foundation for the creators of Hebrew language film who followed in his footsteps."
Media Collection PN1998.3.B4635 Y33 1993

Yarita pa’am be-mishehu? = Ever Shot Anyone?
[Women Make Movies, 201-?] (58 min) Hebrew with English subtitles. Dir. Michal Aviad
"Israeli filmmaker Michal Aviad provides a woman's take on how national culture is informed by male identity through the military experience that bonds her country's Jewish men. This film documents Aviad's attempt to infiltrate the world of army reservists during their annual tour of duty on the Golan Heights."
Media Collection UB419.I75 Y37 2010

Yom huledet same’ach Mar Mograbi = Happy Birthday, Mr. Mograbi
[Arte Video, 2006] (77 min) Hebrew with English subtitles. Dir. Avi Mograbi
Media Collection PN1997.A952 2006

Zehavah Ben: Kokhar Ehad Levad = Zehavah Ben, the Solitary Star
[Ergo Media, 1998] (84 min) Hebrew with English subtitles. Dir. Erez Laufer
"A view of middle east politics, circa 1996, through the life and performances of Zehava Ben. The Moroccan-born Israeli musician captured the hearts of audiences Gaza, Jericho, and elsewhere throughout the Arab world."