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Avi Ofer : biography

Education :

2007-2008 photography Master Class : Eldad Rafaeli & Eyal Landsman Studio, Tel-Aviv
1998-1999 Visual-Communication department, "**Bezalel academy**", Jerusalem.
1997-1998 Photography studies at "**Kalisher School of Arts**", Tel-Aviv.
1996-1997 Photography studies at "**Camera Obscura School of Arts**", Tel-Aviv.
1997 Multimedia course at "**Sivan**" computer school, Tel-Aviv
1990-1993 Fine Arts studies at "**Telma-Yalin**" High school of arts, Givataim.
1984-1990 Fine Arts studies at "**The School of Arts**", Tel-Aviv.

Army service:

1994-1997 Animator and graphic designer at the **Multimedia and Filming unit of the Engeneering Corps.**

Working experience:

2009- Illustrating for "Haaretz" Newspaper
2005-2009 Illustrating Israeli and international children books
1997-2009 Illustrator, animator and graphic designer in all medias
2000-2003 weekly illustration in the financial magazin of "**maariv**" daily newspaper.
2001 First prize in a "**short Animation Film Contest**", and a screening of the film in the opening night of **Jerusalem Film Festival**, July 2001
2001-2002 Animations for **Hop Kids TV Channel.**
2002 Animations and design of **asifa.net/israel**

Art Work:

2009 **Refuge City** : Master-Class Photography Group exhibition :Jaffa Harbour
2009 **Point Of View 2009** : photography exhibition , Tel-Aviv Station Gallery
2009 **Kites** : Group exhibition , Tzadik Gallery, Jaffa , 2009
2002-2009 Animation films screenings at selected festivals around the world
1999-2000 Art and design work for "**Gros**" street gallery, Tel-aviv.
2000 Art work for "**Jaffa Art 2000**", in Jaffa, Tel-Aviv.
2000-2002 Designs and art work for **Tidbaum Art Poster.**
2001 Titlebaum art group show in **Limbos Gallery**, Tel-Aviv
2002 Titlebaum art group show in **Museum Ashdot Yaakov**
2005 Art group show in "**Beit Haomanim**", Tel-Aviv

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Avi Ofer-Filmography:

"Autofoto" , 2001

2 min 37 sec Music and Sound by **Yossi Yampel** Acoustic guitar by **Ely Zak**

Synopsis: A man walks into an automatic pasport photo booth, and gets surprising results.

Festivals:

Official selection in **Annecy** animation festival 2002.

Official selection **Seol** animation festival 2002.

Official selection **ANIMA MUNDI** 2002, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Official selection **Festival du Film d'Animation Pour la Jeunesse** 2002,
Bourg- en-Bresse, France.

Official selection **BAF! 2002**, animation festival, Bradford, UK.

Official selection **I Casteli Animati 2002**, Genzano di Roma, Italy.

ANIMATION SHORTS SUITE series, Jacob Burns Film Center, Pleasantville, NY,
july 2003

Ulisses Children's film Festival, october 2003. **Short animation award**, Portugal,
First prize, short film category.

"Escapism" , 2002

6 min 14 sec Music and SoundFX by **Ophir Gal**

Synopsis: A soldier guards the border. His shift has no beginning or an end, so he seeks for something that can take his mind off the time which stands still.

Festivals:

Official selection in competition, **AniFest 2003** Trebon, Prague, Czech Republic

Official selection in **ANIMA MUNDI 2003**, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, Brazil.

ASIF 2003, Animation film festival, Tel-Aviv

First prize in the Independent Film Category.

Prix Ars Electronica 2003, Linz, Austria.

12th Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film, Germany,
"Panorama International" category, 2004.

Annecy Animation festival. 2007

"Mermaid S.O.S" , 2004

A Film by Tsvika Oren & Avi Ofer

2 min Music & Sound Design by Ady Cohen

Synopsis : A typical day begins , in the life of Benjamin F. and Man's best friend, the kite.

Festivals:

Official selection **I Casteli Animati 2004**, Genzano di Roma, Italy.

Asif 2004, Tel-Aviv. First prize for independent film.

"SandBox" , 2006

3 min 10 sec

Music & Sound by Yossi Yampel

Synopsis : A typical day at the playground interrupted...

Festivals:

Annecy animation film festival 2007 - Official selection in competition .

ASIF 2006 , Tel-Aviv Cinematheque

Animanima 2007 , Serbia

DOK Leipzig 2007 , Germany

CINANIMA 2007 , Portugal

CASTELLI ANIMATI 2007 , Italy - Official selection in competition -The Fabrizio Bellocchio Award
for Social Content - www.fabriziobellocchioonlus.it

Anifest 2008, Prague – official selection in competition - **Special Mention of the Jury**

Monstra 2008, Lisbon – in competition

"Tulik" , 2007

(For "Hop" children channel, Israel)

2:15 min

Lyrics : Rama Samsonov , Original music : Naftalie Alter

Music adaptation by : Ophir Gal

Synopsis : a little boy plays alone on the beach , enjoying eating his grapes,
when a little girl shows up...

Festivals:

Asif 2007, Cinematheque Tel-Aviv

"Dream Child" , 2007

(For "Hop" children channel, Israel)

2:20 min

Lyrics : Lea Goldberg , Original music : Shalom Hanoch

Synopsis : While sleeping, a boy laughs in his dream and takes his teddy bear to a magical adventure.

"Get The Picture" , 2009

5:53 min

Music and Sound by Martin Westlake

Synopsis: A curious girl, hungry for excitement finds an abandoned object which gives her a chance to capture the world from a different angle.

Festivals:

Anima 2009 , Cordoba Argentina. (**SPECIAL MENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL JURY.**)

Asif 2009, Tel-Aviv Cinematheque Animation Festival (Second prize , Personal Animation Category)

Castelli Animati Festival 2009, **Genzano di Roma, Italy**

"Ella Takes World Cup" , 2009 – In the making

4:00 min

Film by Avi Ofer

Produced by Dvori Hoffman Lubitch

Music and Sound by -----

Synopsis: A whole world of magic, tastes, dreams and happiness in one simple cup and moment.

Press:

www.AWN.com

Review on "*Autofoto*", April 17, 2003 by *Jon Hofferman*.

"Using simple line drawings with occasional touches of color, Avi Ofer displays an appealing, loose style that works exceedingly well in this whimsical vignette about a photo booth that delivers unexpected results. It's a great idea and Ofer clearly has the skill to make it work: the setup and the first narrative surprise are well-timed and engaging, and there are a number of cute touches that enhance the humor and poignancy of the events. Even the somewhat odd choice of using a solo acoustic guitar accompaniment is reasonably effective (and certainly provides a notable contrast to the electronic soundtrack usually found in animated shorts these days). The problem, though -- which is also endemic to so many of these films -- is that *Autofoto* doesn't really have an ending, or much development beyond the initial idea, which makes the film more an illustrated concept than a satisfying narrative experience.

Avi Ofer studied photography and visual communications at a number of schools in Israel and has worked for the last several years in design and animation in Tel-Aviv. *Autofoto* is a personal project, which he created without a storyboard, drawing on a WACOM tablet directly into the computer. After winning an Internet short-film contest, *Autofoto* was shown on opening night of the 2001 Jerusalem Film Festival. It has also screened at Annecy, [Anima Mundi](#), [I Castelli Animati](#), and several other festivals."

www.AWN.com

Review on "*Escapism*", September 24, 2003 by *Greg Singer*

Escapism is the story of a soldier who keeps guard in a watchtower, and who daydreams of faraway places and memories to overcome the interminable boredom and nothingness stretching around him. With no storyboard, with no cleaning or tracing of frames, director Avi Ofer used an electronic tablet and pen to draw the 2D traditional animation directly in Macromedia Flash. The animation is therefore scratchy and wiggly, but in no way compromised by its simplicity. Ofer's use of minimal lines and colors offers an overall pleasing effect, and the essential emotion of the story is conveyed with economic ease.

The story begins with the character's 18th birthday, blowing out the candles of his cake and receiving the gift of a hair trimmer. With newly shaven head, he is straightaway conscripted into the military, manning his post amid the ceaselessly dismal rain. Pensive and lonely, he draws finger doodles on the foggy glass of his watchtower booth. He transforms one doodle of a hangman's noose into the smiling, happy face of a birthday balloon, a distant recollection of his childhood friendships. The character puts on his SUNY Walkman — in symbolic search of that which is "sunny" — but the music doesn't chase away the dreariness. The dripping ceiling of the watchtower soon catches his attention, and the shape of the light bulb reminds him again of his birthday balloon.

The young soldier notices a book taped to the ceiling, and so he fetches it down with the barrel of his gun. It is a backpacking travel guide for Australia. Fantasizing about a colorful, sunny Australian beach, he stands in the scene of his imagination with a surfboard and enjoys the wind blowing through his long hair.

The soldier then takes off his gun and uniform and climbs down from his watchtower perch. With a little dream of koalas in his mind, he walks through the rain along a barb-wired fence extending off toward the horizon. He comes across other characters also in their skivvies — playing ball, building dirt castles, reading, bicycling. He keeps on going.

The story ends with flies buzzing around his partially eaten 18th birthday cake. On the dresser, someone places a framed picture of the boy smiling alongside a koala bear.

Escapism was accepted into Anifest 2003 (Czech Republic).

www.AWN.com

Review on "*Sandbox*" , November 26, 2008 By Andrew Farago

The drawing style in *Sandbox* is very simple, which makes the story all the more compelling. It also makes it easier for viewers to relate to the characters.

The third film in this month's "FFF" continues the "doomed world" theme in [Avi Ofer's](#) short *Sandbox*, which tells the tale of "a typical day at the playground interrupted."

A boy and a girl are playing on a swing set as a smaller girl observes. A small missile makes its way onscreen and obliterates the swinging girl as her companions watch, relatively unaffected by the destruction. The disincorporated girl becomes a spectral angel, and she lazily drifts by a sandbox, where another child meets his fate, also in the form of an errant missile. He becomes an angel as well, drifts along to another venue and so on. It would be tragic if it weren't so funny, but at the same time, it would be funny if it weren't so tragic.

Ofer's drawing style is very simple, just a few steps beyond stick figures in the level of detail, which makes the story all the more compelling and makes it that much easier for viewers to relate to his characters. If the figures were any simpler, we'd feel no more sympathy for them than we would for any of the disposable characters that populate any number of [Don Hertzfeldt](#) shorts, and if the figures were any more complicated, we'd feel too emotionally attached to them to watch one innocent bystander after another reduced to atoms as unseen, unstoppable forces set upon them.

The film moves at quick clip, which is not surprising, given Ofer's approach to *Sandbox*. He came up with the overall plot of the film a few weeks before the second Lebanon war started. There was no storyboard or written script used at any point during the creation of the film, and the story was more or less "improvised" (if you can do such a thing when you're illustrating a story one frame at a time), with no editing and no revisions or clean-up along the way. Artwork was created directly on a [Wacom](#) tablet, and Flash 4.0 software was used to animate the film.

It's a very "down and dirty" way to animate, and the film shows it. It's an uncomplicated look at a complicated issue, but the end result is thoroughly engaging and entertaining