

## A Prayer Press Kit-



**Written & Directed by:**  
Alon Borten

**Executive Producer:**  
Bat-Ami Rivlin

**Starring:**  
Elana Gantman  
Joshua Chessin-Yudin  
Elizabeth Miriam Winfield

**TRAILER LINK:** <https://vimeo.com/225687064>

**PASSWORD:** Trailer

## **Plot Synopsis:**

In present day New York, a Jewish woman named Maya marries the first man she's ever dated. One day, her ideals and identity as a Jewish wife are shattered by a feeling of attraction to a woman she meets at synagogue. These attractions force her to examine herself and make a decision that will forever change her and the lives of those who love her.

## **Directors Statement:**

The concept for “A Prayer” began during my years as an undergraduate art student at the School of Visual Arts, when my professors encouraged me to transition from photography to filmmaking. At the time, I focused on creating video art pieces that dealt directly with my sexuality and Jewish identity, but my teachers felt I had an aesthetic and storytelling vision that could lend itself well to narrative film.

I was incredibly close with my mother and two older sisters growing up. Our relationship helped give me a sense of self-awareness and regard for others. Naturally, when it came time to think of a story to tell on film, I knew I wanted it to be from the perspective of a woman, as their stories are often ignored or untold. I also wanted to address certain cultural aspects that people often take for granted in sheltered, insular communities, namely marriage.

Each of these elements led me to create Maya, the film’s protagonist. Maya is an exceptionally selfless woman who was not given the time or opportunity to reflect on what she actually wants in life. While it was a challenge to portray a character whose life experiences I could only imagine, I believe that this story about discovering one’s truth needs to be told.

### **Alon Borten (Writer/Director):**

Alon Borten is an Israeli-American, New York based artist. He graduated from School of Visual Arts having majored in photography and video in 2015. Since then, he's focused all of his energy into creating his first narrative short film, "A Prayer". His artwork handles the intersections of an individuals identity, specifically focusing on ones sexuality and religion, and how we face the often thought tensions between the two.

### **Elana Gantman (Maya- leading role):**

Elana Gantman is a New York City based actor and singer, and is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan's BFA Theatre program. One of Elana's main passions is Drama Therapy, having worked with youth suffering from PTSD at the Matrix Theatre Company in Detroit, Michigan, as well as participating in The Schusterman Foundation's Start South Arts Festival in Sderot, Israel. Elana is thrilled to play the character of Maya in "A Prayer" as she is drawn to stories that facilitate inclusion and change. Some of her favorite roles have been Janine in SCORCHED and Desdemona in OTHELLO.

### **End Credits:**

#### **Director & Writer-**

Alon Borten

#### **Executive Producer-**

Bat-Ami Rivlin

#### **Director of Photography-**

Jackson Warner Lewis

#### **Editor-**

Tom Knight

#### **First Assistant Director-**

Alex Burstein

#### **Cast-**

*Maya:*

Elana Gantman

*Tomer:*  
Joshua Chessin Yudin

*Hannah:*  
Elizabeth Miriam Winfeld

**Storyboards-**  
Ivan Viaranchyk

**Script Supervisor-**  
Solange Enard

**Sound Mix & Design-**  
Sven Rethemeier

**First Assistant Camera-**  
John White

**Set Design-**  
Aaron Keba

**Wardrobe Consultant-**  
Marrisa Wilson

**Script Reader-**  
Tal Lurya

**Swing Grip & Electric-**  
Josh Hogan

**Colorist-**  
Ben Federman

**Composer-**  
Michael Markowski

**Title Design-**  
Emily Pracher

**Associate Producers-**  
Melissa Taub  
Natalie Borten  
Carmen Rio  
Meir Greenberg

## **Social Media:**

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/A-Prayer-Film-756022531207252/>

**Instagram:** @Aprayerfilm

**Twitter:** @Aprayerfilm

## **Press:**

<http://jewcy.com/jewish-arts-and-culture/jewcy-exclusive-trailer-prayer>

## **Contact:**

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