

**LAND OF THE LITTLE PEOPLE**

a film by Yaniv Berman

Israel 2016

83 min, colour, Hebrew with English subtitles

produced by Fresco Films

**World Sales:**

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## **LAND OF THE LITTLE PEOPLE**

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**Original title:** Medinat Hagamadim  
**Country of production:** Israel  
**Year of production:** 2016  
**Length:** 83 min  
**Shooting format:** Red Epic 4K  
**Screening format:** DCP (1:2.39, Surround 5.1, 24fps, unencrypted)  
**Language(s):** Hebrew  
**Subtitles:** English  
**Color or b/w:** colour

**Production Company:** Fresco Films

**Producers:** Tony Copti

**Co-Production Company:**

**Co-Producers:**

**Synopsis:**

Four young kids who live in a village of military officers families, form a small gang. An old abandoned army base, located in the surrounding wild fields, turns into their camp. Another war begins in Israel, and most men are drafted to serve their country. The mothers are sitting worried in front of the televisions and listen to the constant news reports, while the kids, with no one to supervise them, return to their camp in the wild. To their surprise, they discover two soldiers who deserted their units, using their camp as a hideout. The children try to regain control over their stolen territory, but the soldiers hold their grounds. Ruthless struggle develops between the groups, and the soldiers, who sought refuge from the war outside, find themselves in another war, which turns to be as dangerous and bloody.

Land of the Little People is an ambitious project by Palestinian film producer Tony Copti and Israeli director Yaniv Berman. Political and uncompromising in its social statement, the story touches at the very core of the Israeli inner conflict. Children growing up in a militaristic society with an everlasting war raging in the background know they have to toughen themselves in order to be prepared for when they are called to serve. Now these children are covered with two soldiers' blood as their own private war rages in the woods while a "real" war rages in the outside world.

**Festivals:**

Shanghai International Film Festival - World Premiere

**Awards:****Director's statement**

As a child I used to play with my friends within the barriers of an abandoned military camp. That captivating place gave us the feeling of living in a wild world that we could rule.

In my film I want to tell about Israeli children that grow up like I did, in a militant society, with the war always in the background. I would like to raise the question of how this ongoing conflict can ever come to an end, when generations of children grow up in this environment and have come to know only the aggressive solutions to their problems.

In order to point that out I decided to portray the world in rough realism from the view point of the children, as they run and hunt in the apocalypticlike landscape of an abandoned military camp, which is overcome by the wild nature that surrounds it. The conflict between the children and the soldiers is violent and uncompromising, showing how surreal and decadent our world has become.

**Cast and Credits**

Maor Schweitzer..... Yaron  
 Ofer Hayun..... Omer  
 Lior Rochman..... Chemi  
 Mishel Pruzansky..... Tali  
 Amit Hechter..... Yonatan  
 Ido Kestler ..... Louie

Director: Yaniv Berman  
 Screenplay: Yaniv Berman  
 DoP: Rami Katzav  
 Sound: Michael Goorevich  
 Editor: Oz Guttman, Ziv Karshen  
 Production Designer: Yoel Herzberg  
 Costume Designer: Rachel Ben-Dahan  
 Music: Gad Emile Zeitune  
 Producer: Tony Copti  
 World Sales: Pluto Film

**Biography**

Born in Haifa, Israel, Yaniv is a graduate student from the MFA program at the Film and Television Department, Tel-Aviv University. His short film EVEN KIDS STARTED SMALL, about school children taking over the school, was officialselection of the CINÉFONDATION, Cannes Film Festival in 2006. He filmed for six years a

documentary about a military company of reserve soldiers in the IDF, which was made into the award winning documentary **THE ALPHA DIARIES**. **LAND OF THE LITTLE PEOPLE** is his first narrative feature film, which like his previous works deals with the traumatic process of becoming a child-soldier in a violent militaristic society. Yaniv is also a producer and director of commercials. He lives in Israel with his wife and two daughters.

### **Filmography**

2006 **Even Kids Started Small** (Short Narrative)

2007 **The Alpha Diaries** (Documentary)

2016 **Land of the Little People** (Narrative Feature)