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**A ZEITGEIST FILMS RELEASE**

## **SYNOPSIS**

Winner of the Best Narrative Feature Award at the Tribeca Film Festival, *Zero Motivation* is a unique, sharply observed, sometimes dark and often hilarious portrait of everyday life for a unit of young, female soldiers in a remote Israeli desert outpost. Playing out like *M\*A\*S\*H* meets *Orange is the New Black*, Talya Lavie's brilliant debut details the power struggles of three women with different agendas and very little to do. Pencil-pushers in the Human Resources Office, best friends Zohar (Dana Ivgy) and Daffi (Nelly Tagar) spend their time playing video games, singing pop songs, jousting with stationery and dreaming of Tel Aviv. The indolent twosome are watched over by their aspiring senior officer, Rama (Shani Klein), who dreams of a higher position and a significant military career, but with a platoon of unskilled, idle, female soldiers without any drive under her charge, her ambitions for promotion are constantly thwarted. With shifts of tone that go from slapstick to satiric to horrifying with fluid ease, and with a superb supporting cast of characters, *Zero Motivation* is destined to be one of the most talked about films of the year.

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

During my mandatory military service as a secretary, I dreamed of making an army movie with the pathos and epic proportions of classic war-films, but about the gray, mundane experiences that my office mates and I had, hardly ever getting up from our chairs. Like most girls during their two years of service, we didn't risk our lives. But we were definitely in danger of dying of boredom.

I was inspired and amused by the idea of using envelopes, coffee cups, office intrigues, staple guns, and Solitaire to create a female response to the male-dominated army films genre. Israeli women may of course serve in more glamorous roles, like pilots or tank crew instructors. But I wanted to focus on us office girls, the unseen and mostly-ignored majority whose contribution is lacking any social or symbolic value.

*Zero Motivation* describes the everyday drama in the private lives of young women. It is about love and disappointment, dreams and fears, friendship and loneliness and finding out who you are under an absurd set of rules. I intended to use the mandatory military service – a very local aspect of the Israeli culture – as a platform to tell a universal coming of age story.

Cinematically, I wished to keep the mono-chromatic palette of the army base, its grey structures, crowded offices and rundown living quarters, set against the beautiful desert scenery of the south of Israel, with its warm colors, constantly changing weather and sense of freedom.

## **DIRECTOR'S BIO**

Talya Lavie is a director, screenwriter and comics artist. She studied animation at the Bezalel Art Academy and graduated with merit from the Sam Spiegel Film School in Jerusalem. She authored screenplays for various television dramas. Her short film *Sliding Flora* screened at New York City's MoMA and in over 40 film festivals worldwide. Her thesis film *The Substitute* received several international awards, notably the Audience Award at the Berlin Film Festival, the first prize in the Munich International Short Film Festival and the first prize in the Melbourne International Film Festival. *Zero Motivation*, her first feature film, participated in the Sundance Directors and Screenwriters Lab and was the recipient of 5 Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Director and Best Screenplay. It also won the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival's award for Best Narrative Feature and the Nora Ephron Prize for a "woman writer or director with a distinctive voice."

## CHARACTERS/ACTRESS BIOS

**Zohar** is the office Postal NCO. She is grumpy, rebellious, and sarcastic. She despises and routinely fights with her commander, Rama. Her one friend in the army base (and in the world for that matter) is Daffi. Her main concern in life is how to lose her virginity. She is secretly in love with one of the officers but never dares to talk to him.

**Dana Ivgy** is a well-known Israeli actress and the daughter of the famous actor Moshe Ivgy. Since childhood, Ivgy has appeared in numerous television and film productions. After graduating from Nisan Nativ Acting School, she appeared in several critically acclaimed films, making her mark with Karen Yedaya's *Or* (2004), for which she won the Israeli Academy Award for Best Actress. Ivgy also starred in Yedaya's follow-up, *JAFFA*, as well as *Aviva, My Love*, which won the Israeli Film Academy's award for Best Film in 2006, and worked alongside Juliette Binoche in Amos Gitai's *Disengagement* (2006). Her performance in *Zero Motivation* garnered her a second Israeli Academy Award for Best Actress in 2014.

**Daffi** is the "Paper & Shredding NCO", a made-up job assigned to her since she fails the most basic secretarial duties. Fragile Daffi hates the secluded desert base and dreams of transferring to Tel Aviv. Most of her time is spent on writing letters, pleading to be re-assigned; the remainder of her time is devoted to playing Mine Sweeper at the computer with Zohar, with the ambitious goal of breaking the record on every desktop in the office.

**Nelly Tagar** is an Israeli stage and screen actress. She is a graduate of the Yoram Levistein Acting Studio in Tel Aviv. She participated in several Israeli television dramas and films and is a permanent cast member of the Habimah National Theatre.

**Rama** is a highly motivated officer, who dreams of a lustrous military career. She is not very eloquent and gets mad too easily, especially at Zohar and Daffi, her two unmotivated subordinates, who are a bad influence on each other and whose conduct indirectly hurts her chances to be promoted.

**Shani Klein** is a fresh graduate of the Yoram Levinstein Acting Studio in Tel Aviv. *Zero Motivation* is her debut cinematic appearance.

# CREDITS

## CAST

Zohar **Dana Ivgy**  
Daffi **Nelly Tagar**  
Rama **Shani Klein**  
Livnat **Heli Twito**  
Liat **Meytal Gal**

## CREW

Written and directed by **Talya Lavie**  
Produced by **Eilon Ratzkovsky, Yossi Uzrad,**  
**Guy Jacoel** and **Yochanan Kredo**  
Executive Producer **Eilon Ratzkovsky**  
Cinematographer **Yaron Scharf**  
Editor **Arik Lahav-Leibovich**  
Production Designer **Ron Zikno**  
Costume Designer **Yael Kredo**  
Casting Director **Orit Azulay**  
Original Score **Ran Bagno**  
Translation to English **Natalie Fainstein**  
Sound Design **Itzik Cohen**

Israel • 2014 • 100 mins • Color • Aspect ratio: 1: 1.85 • Sound SRD 5.1  
Not Rated • In Hebrew with English subtitles



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