

**ITVfest / PopConLA –
FILMMAKER INTERVIEWS**

A Q&A with Ori Gruder

from the International Projects (Foreign)

“MY FAITH”



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**So, Ori, your background, where are you from and what motivated you to do a International Projects (Foreign)?:**

Hi my name is Ori Gruder aka Or Yashar (means Direct Light in Hebrew) I'm a script writer, a director & a cinematographer. Born in Israel in 1970, at the age of 18, I enlisted into the Israeli defense force and served as a stills photographer for the Air Force.

I graduated (B. A) with honors from the Film & TV School at Tel Aviv University in 1998. Since then i filmed and directed films, TV shows, documentaries, commercials and music videos for all channels of Israeli TV. All of my films come with a special touch by using a new language of editing, digital cameras - HD filming and modern music. Combining fiction and documentary with a new approach, specialized at Judaism Kabbalah and New Age topics. I'm happy to speak the international language we all know - the cinematic language, and share our vision with others.

### **And your role with in “MY FAITH” ?**

I'm the director and the Co-producer with my mate Eli Hakim and I also was one of the cinematographers of the project.

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How would you best describe you International Projects (Foreign)?

An innovative spiritual documentary series!

The goal of the series is to bring the cultural and philosophical wealth of the concepts of faith, prayer and salvation to the screen through every means available to us within the constructs of the medium. The direct discussion of one of the most important issues in Judaism – and by corollary, in the other religions – is timelier than ever in light of the changes and events taking place in Israel and the world today. The participants in the series speak both Hebrew and English, making the series more easily marketable to a world that is showing increasing interest in these subjects. A main part of the idea behind the series is to put the belief in a higher power and the approach to it through various types of prayer to the test of modern reality

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### **What was the best moment, for you in creating “MY FAITH”?**

There were so great moments and the fact that we film all around the world gain us so much beautiful scenes but I think the moment when Prof. Taicher one of the well-known brain researchers and the Israeli governments chief scientist, opened to us and said that “after all, yes; she thinks “there is a soul

inside this body and its one of the things you have to believe and feel - but can't prove scientifically" and we are the first one to hear it (and film it).

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And the worst moment?

When we went to a far and isolated forest to film one of the characters Rabi Sade, we had an interview with him that was very good for me, but when we came back I check the sound and it was missing as we had a technical problem which we didn't notice. As we are making a series about faith - we were only disappointed for a short time and we politely ask our dear character to take another day off and go with us there again.

Finally, we had him in a moody day and as we were walking, in the forest, suddenly he started shouting and raised his hands up to the sky and he let it all out. I held our team and let him walk away from us on the path and that's how we got our final shot for the season.

If you had one message to get across to the WORLD with "MY FAITH"

- What would that message be?

We are all ONE any human being any place any way of thinking any time any sound any vision it's all ONE !

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### **Everyone that enters a Festival wants to win an Award,**

#### **What about your project makes it stand out?**

The critics have said:

**"The complexes and challenging cinematic language takes the viewer on a fascinating, mystical, thought-provoking journey"** – Gali Meiri, The Industry Website

**"This series is a health snack among all the junk food that commercial television has to offer" – Devora Ginsburg, B'Sheva (newspaper)**

**"Despite the skepticism and cynicism that typifies our generation; this series doesn't allow the viewer to slip into superficiality. It holds his interest and takes him through an enjoyable, profound experience of searching for the truth within himself." – Ofer Schechtman, Mako Website**

**"An inspiring documentary series... Spiritual reality without competitions or million-dollar prizes, just enlightenment which is a bigger prize than money." - Nahum Mochiah - Makor Rishon (newspaper)**

**"A fascinating series that makes you stop and think: Who am I? and What am I doing here?" – Tal Barkai, Ynet Website**

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and What is next for you?

A documentary series about DEATH and a feature film about KABALAH with GO-D's help.

Thank You, Ori Gruder

Any last words or something I forgotten to ask you?

Good luck to all participant filmmakers with their projects and the festival organizers

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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**What are the credits for MY FAITH?**

**Produced by:** Eli Hakim & Ori Gruder (Or Yashar)

**Creators/Directors:** Ori Gruder (Or Yashar)

**Cameras:** Eldad Eilat & Ori Gruder

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Where and When is “MY FAITH”?

FaceBook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/278076158871968>

Web Site: <http://www.myfaithpro.com/>

YouTube: http://youtu.be/3dgRB_smTY8