



## The Bubble

### Eytan Fox

ISRAEL, 2006  
Hebrew, Arabic

117 minutes ■ Colour/35mm  
Production Company: **Uchovsky Fox/Ronen Ben Tal Productions/Metro Communications/Amir Feingold Productions**  
Executive Producer: **Moshe Edry, Leon Edri, Dudi Zilber, Micky Rabinovitch**  
Producer: **Gal Uchovsky, Ronen Ben Tal, Amir Feingold**  
Screenplay: **Gal Uchovsky, Eytan Fox**  
Cinematographer: **Yaron Scharf**  
Editor: **Yosef Grunfeld, Yaniv Raiz**  
Production Designer: **Oren Dar**  
Sound: **Itay Alohav, Gil Toren**  
Music: **Ivri Lider**  
Principal Cast: **Ohad Knoller, Yousef "Joe" Sweid, Daniella Wircer, Alon Freidmann**

Production: **Uchovsky Fox, 61 Maze Street, Tel Aviv 65789 Israel. T (972-3) 5283-56634 F (972-3) 560-3016 uchovsky@gmail.com**

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Downtown Tel Aviv's Sheinkin Street is a sexy, cosmopolitan urban landscape – cafés, alternative record shops, gay bars, student protests, the works. It could not be farther away from the nearby reality of occupied Palestine. Gifted Israeli director Eytan Fox pricks this "bubble" in his new film. It is a breathtakingly urgent, convulsively funny and then impossibly tragic love story.

Fox is Israel's most interesting and courageous young filmmaker. His taboo-busting films all carry a sense of danger. *Yossi & Jagger* portrayed a homosexual love affair in the Israeli army; *Walk on Water* was a buddy movie about a Mossad agent and the gay grandson of a Nazi. In *The Bubble*, Fox and his collaborator Gal Uchovsky tackle the toughest subject of all: Jews, Arabs and Middle East politics. And they use the oldest and best trick in the book, bringing us into the worlds of lovable and imperfect characters about to undergo transformation.

Lulu (Daniella Wircer) lives with two gay guys, brooding music lover Noam (Ohad Knoller) and flamboyant café owner Yali (Alon Friedmann). The roommates' days and nights are spent in typical slacker fashion – hanging out, watching TV, getting laid. They are secular and progressive, but not overly political.

Everything changes when Noam meets Ashraf (Yousef "Joe" Sweid), a cute and intense Palestinian guy, at a checkpoint. Noam is on reserve duty and Ashraf is helping a woman forced to give birth at the roadside – not the best circumstances for a meeting,

but something connects them. When Ashraf shows up at Noam's apartment, a powerfully erotic love affair begins. Ashraf becomes part of their group, while Lulu and Yali also fall dramatically in and out of love. One almost believes that the two men could inspire change as symbols of peace, but their affair is already doomed. The awful violence of life outside the bubble envelops them, gradually making their affair one of painful, tragic irony.

Fox pulls no punches. Ineffective Israeli peace protestors and self-serving Jihadists are both scorned. True happiness is seen as a luxury only for Jews and Muslims able to get out, to London or New York. When I first saw *The Bubble* I wondered whether the film might be overstating the case. Recent events have shown Fox and Uchovsky's analysis to be painfully accurate.

#### ■ Noah Cowan



**Eytan Fox** was born in New York City and raised in Jerusalem. After studying at Tel Aviv University's Department of Film and Television, he directed the short film *Time Off* (90), which received the Movie of the Year award from the Israeli Film Institute. His feature films are *Song of the Siren* (94), *Yossi & Jagger* (02), *Walk on Water* (04) and *The Bubble* (06).