

Grand Prix at the Tokyo International Film Festival 2010

European Premiere – International film festival Berlin 2011 – Official selection GENERATION Competition



## *Intimate Grammar*

(HaDikduk HaPnimi)

*A film by Nir Bergman*

Based on *The Book of Intimate Grammar* by David Grossman



35mm – 110 min. – 1:1,85 – Dolby Digital SRD

### Contact

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### Short Synopsis

Three years in the life of Aharon Kleinfeld, the boy who stopped growing. Perhaps he is afraid of growing up and becoming like his crude parents, or maybe he is just a late bloomer, in need of a little more time. But nobody has the time to wait.

### Long Synopsis

In Israel in the early 1960s, a new generation is growing up: the militant Israeli, the generation that will not go through another Holocaust. But Hinda's son, Aharon, a sensitive eleven year old boy with a highly developed inner world, does not quite fit the mold. His soul seeks refinement, art – everything he is unable to find at home. Aharon refuses to become like his parents for whom human existence is reduced to war and survival.

As an expression of protest he does not grow an inch during three years. Betrayed by his family, by his best friend and his beloved, lonely in his small body, but aware of his maturing soul, he realizes something must be done. Aharon crosses the boundary dividing childhood and adolescence, in a dangerous inner journey, departing from childhood, and if he can make it, if he grows up, he will remember it all, the good and the bad, he will treasure the child within.

### Director's statement

In 1991, *The Book of Intimate Grammar* by David Grossman was published. I was 22 at the time and the book moved me like no book had ever done before. What touched me so much about this book, it is hard to say. Perhaps it was the loneliness of adolescent Aharon, or his view of the violent adults around him. Perhaps it was his friendship with Gidon, the kind which is experienced only in childhood, or the ground falling from under him when his family disintegrates. Perhaps it was just that I had also thought that physically I would never grow. It was probably for all these reasons and more...

## Nir Bergman - Biography

Nir Bergman was born in Haifa, Israel, in 1969. Nir graduated with honors the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School. His graduate film *Sea Horses* (narrative, 16 mm) was screened at over 40 festivals worldwide, and won **ten awards** including those for the **best film at the Lodz Film Festival and the Munich Student Film Festival**.

*Broken Wings*, Bergman's first feature film, received **the prize for the best film and best script** at the **Jerusalem International Film Festival, 2002**, and was the winner of the **Grand Prix** at the **Tokyo International Film Festival 2002**. *Broken Wings* was also screened at the Toronto International Film Festival 2003, and winner of 3 prizes at the **Berlinale 2003**, including Audience Award.

Bergman co-wrote the series *Reaching for Heaven*, which **won Israeli Academy awards and best dramatic series award at the Jerusalem International Film Festival 2001**. He also wrote and directed *Walk the Dog*, **winner of 3 Israeli Academy Awards**, including Best TV Drama Mini-Series, and Best Director and Writer. Bergman is also among the writers and directors of TV series *In Treatment*. *Intimate Grammar* is his second feature film, and it won the **Best Full Length Feature Award** at the **Jerusalem International Film Festival 2010** and the **Grand Prix** at the **Tokyo International Film Festival 2010**.

## Filmography

2010 - ***Intimate Grammar*** (Hadikduk Hapnimi)  
Writer and Director. Feature Film.

2008 – ***Castles in the Sky*** (Migdalim Ba'Avir)  
Script Editor and Director. TV Drama Series.

2007 - ***Walk the Dog*** (Lehotzi et Hakelev)  
Writer and Director. TV Drama Mini-Series.

2005 - ***In Treatment*** (Betipul)  
Writer, Director and Co-Creator of half of the first season. TV Drama Series.

2003 – ***Meorav Yerushalmi***  
Writer and Director of several episodes of first season. TV Drama Series.

2002 - ***Broken Wings*** (Knafaim Shvurot)  
Writer and Director. Feature Film.

2001 - ***Reaching for Heaven*** (Litpos et Hashmaim)  
Co-Writer and Script Editor. TV Drama Series.

1998 - ***Sea Horses*** (Sussei Yam)  
Writer and Director. Graduate Film.

## Credits

### **Cast:**

Ahron: Roeel Elsberg  
Hinda: Orly Zilbershatz  
Moshe: Yehuda Almagor  
Yochi: Yael Sgersk  
Mamchu: Rivka Gur  
Edna: Evelyn Kaplun  
Mrs. Smitanka: Limor Goldstein  
Yaeli: Rony Tal  
Gidon: Eden Luttenberg  
Younger Zahi: Ruslan Levchuk  
Older Zahi: Adam Kenneth

### **Crew:**

Screenplay and Director: Nir Bergman  
Producer: Assaf Amir  
Line & Associate Producer: Maria Feldman  
Cinematographer: Biniamin Nimrod Chiram  
Editing: Einat Glaser-Zarhin  
Music composer: Ondrej Soukup  
Art director: Ido Dolev  
Costume Designer: Natan Elkanovith  
Make-up Artist: Karin Geva  
Sound Recordist: Dudu Liss  
Sound Designer: Aviv Aldema  
Casting: Michal Koren

The film was produced with the assistance of:

The Rabinovich Foundation for the Arts – Cinema Project  
Supported by the Cultural Administration at the Israeli Ministry of Culture and Sport and  
Israeli Council for Cinema  
The Avi Chai Foundation

### Technical details:

Format: 35mm  
Running time: 110 min.  
Nr. of reels: 6  
Shooting format: 16mm  
aspect ratio: 1:1.85  
fps: 24  
Sound: Dolby Digital SRD