

LUST IN THE DUST

Director Nadav Harel notes

The film idea was born following the case of Eden Abargil, an Israeli soldier, who published on facebook her selfies with blindfolded handcuffed Palestinian prisoners. Our protagonist is named after her.



"The photos are innocent and lack any statement.", Eden Abargil.

The innocence and lack of statement are the subject of inquiry of the script LUST TO DUST. In the writing we are researching hidden perversions in the language and daily ambitions of young Israelis. We examine those via a random encounter between Jewish and Arab youngsters in the desert. The focal point is sexual relationships in the group - a couple on the verge of separation, a new couple, and a single guy. The hedonistic routine of the youngsters falls apart when the Arabs desire Eden. The friction between sexual and national identity unleashes racist and sexist demons. Eden, the object of desire and protagonist of the film, rebels against her own stereotype, discovering throughout the film her universal ability to empathize with the "other", the weak and exploited, stepping up above her ethnic group belonging. This is our main message in the film, to set free the Israeli youngsters, Jews and Arabs alike, from the "obvious" preposition that National/Ethnic identity is the core of our existence in the Middle East. As of 2016 there is a dangerous problem of racism in our culture, via sexuality the film aims to touch broad young audiences and open their hearts to universal humane values.

We wish not to beat the moral over the head and declare a solution to the "problem". The film ends with a sad, absurd tone, our hope is that through the pain, a potential for new thinking will be born, a call of trust for youngsters to take responsibility to the place they live in.