

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

# 1948

CREATION  
&  
CATASTROPHE

A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT  
THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN  
CONFLICT



1948MOVIE.COM

# Film Overview

## 1948: Creation & Catastrophe

is the story of the establishment of Israel as seen through the eyes of the people who lived it. Rather than being a history lesson, this documentary is a primer for the present. It is simply not possible to make sense of what is happening in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict today without an understanding of 1948.

Yet despite the critical importance of 1948, most of the people interviewed for this documentary have never been able to tell their story in full until now. For nearly seven decades, they have been living with the legacy of that fateful year. Many of the veterans, refugees and witnesses we interviewed have already passed away. This truly is the last chance to hear this story directly from those who lived it.

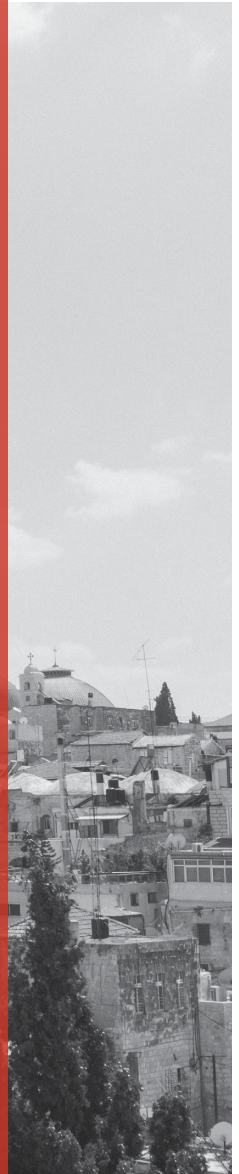
The documentary promises to reveal this story—and more important—to provide a way of understanding the underlying dynamics of the seemingly incomprehensible conflict that continues to capture headlines to this day.

This film was the last chance for many of its Israeli and Palestinian characters to narrate their first-hand accounts of the creation of a state and the expulsion of a nation.

The hopes, fears and grievances that drove the war in 1948 are still central to the conflict today. By dispelling the myths about 1948 and providing an understanding of the events of this foundational moment, this documentary will make it possible for Americans to make sense of present conflict in the region. And once we understand the conflict, it becomes possible to search for a solution.

**1948MOVIE.COM**

**FACEBOOK.COM/1948MOVIE**



## Research

# 10 years in the making - a massive research project

The filmmakers conducted over 90 interviews, poured over 20,000 pages of history, collected more than 2,000 photographs from three dozen sources, combed through hours of archival film and gathered dozens of documents from Israeli military archives.

For a complete list of reference materials:  
<https://www.1948movie.com/research.html>

### **FESTIVALS AND MAJOR SCREENINGS: 2017 & 2018**

- Arizona International Film Festival, Tucson, AZ
- Al-Ard Film Festival, Sardinia, Italy
- Reel Palestine Festival, Dubai, UAE
- University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
- The Middle East Studies Association Film Festival, DC
- Boston Palestine Film Festival, Cambridge, MA
- San Diego Arab Film Festival, San Diego, CA
- Georgetown University, DC
- Chicago Palestine Film Festival, Chicago, IL
- North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
- The American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt
- University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL
- Gulf University for Science and Technology, Mubarak Al-Abdullah, Kuwait
- University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

*Check the website for upcoming screenings.*



# Film Descriptions

## **LOGLINE (32 WORDS):**

Through riveting and moving personal recollections of both Palestinians and Israelis, 1948: Creation & Catastrophe reveals the shocking events of the most pivotal year in the most controversial conflict in the world.

## **SYNOPSIS - 100 WORDS:**

Through riveting and moving personal recollections of both Palestinians and Israelis, 1948: Creation & Catastrophe reveals the shocking events of the most pivotal year in the most controversial conflict in the world. It tells the story of the establishment of Israel as seen through the eyes of the people who lived it. It is simply not possible to make sense of what is happening in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict today without an understanding of 1948. This documentary was the last chance for many of its Israeli and Palestinian characters to narrate their first-hand accounts of the creation of a state and the expulsion of a nation.

## **SYNOPSIS - 140 WORDS:**

Through riveting and moving personal recollections of both Palestinians and Israelis, 1948: Creation & Catastrophe reveals the shocking events of the most pivotal year in the most controversial conflict in the world. It tells the story of the establishment of Israel as seen through the eyes of the people who lived it. But rather than being a history lesson, this documentary is a primer for the present. It is simply not possible to make sense of what is happening in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict today without an understanding of 1948. This documentary was the last chance for many of its Israeli and Palestinian characters to narrate their first-hand accounts of the creation of a state and the expulsion of a nation. Hear stories from the Israelis and Palestinians who personally lived through events in Haifa, Jaffa, Dayr Yasin, Acre, Jerusalem, Ramla, Lydda and more. These shocking and dramatic events reveal the core of what drives the conflict today.

# About the Filmmakers

**ANDY TRIMLETT (CO-DIRECTOR/EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)** has a Master's degree in Middle East Studies from the University of Washington and a Bachelor's degree in International Security and Conflict Resolution from San Diego State University. He has more than a decade of experience in public television, having served as senior producer, associate producer, editor and camera operator on a wide range of productions. He has worked on PBS programs in the United States, Hungary and Austria, winning a regional Emmy for a 30-minute documentary he co-produced about property tax law in California.



**AHLAM MUHTASEB (CO-DIRECTOR/EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)** is a professor of media studies at California State University, San Bernardino. Her research interests include digital communication, social media, and diasporic communities. She has published her scholarship on digital communication and other communication sub-topics, and has presented her scholarship to national and international conventions and scholarly meetings. Her most recent project is the documentary 1948: Creation & Catastrophe, a film on the year 1948 and its catastrophic consequences which has originated from her field work in the Palestinian refugee camps in the Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine. In addition, most of her recent research focuses on digital media and social movements online (cyber activism), and Arab and Muslim images in the media.



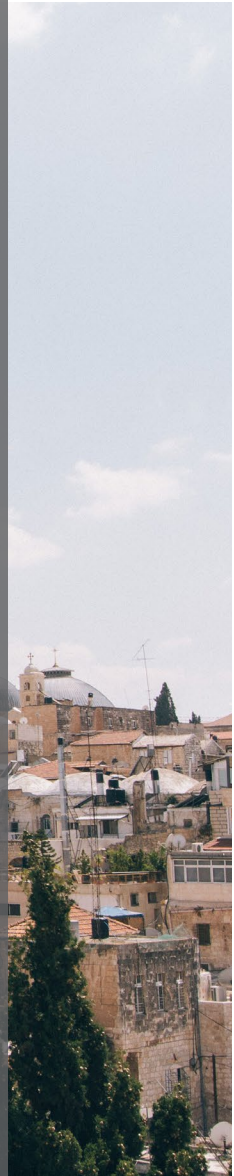
# Filmmaker Statement

*This project has been a labor of love for the past eight years. My co-producer and I are so proud to at last share it with the world. This documentary began shortly after I graduated with my master's degree in Middle East Studies. I had spent years studying the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in both my undergraduate and graduate studies, but quite frankly, I never truly understood the conflict. Then, I began digging deeper into 1948. Suddenly, everything clicked. The forces that drive the continuing violence today began to make sense. I realized that, if I had a master's degree in Middle East Studies and still couldn't explain the conflict, I could never reasonably expect an average American to explain what was going on. I decided that the critical first step on the path to peace was to bring the history of 1948 to the American public.*

*I teamed up with Ahlam Muhtaseb, a professor at California State University San Bernardino who has conducted extensive field work in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine. The two of us began tracking down Palestinians and Israelis who remembered the war first-hand. Many were eager to share their stories, but our requests for interviews were frequently met with, "We don't talk about that." We persisted, managing to collect dozens of stories from fighters, refugees (many still living in camps) and survivors of the war now living in Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States. Their stories are powerful, heart-breaking and shocking.*

*On top of those interviews, we conducted a mountain of research (over 20,000 pages of history), painstakingly fact-checking every statement made in the documentary. Our team gathered photographs and film from archives across the globe. We retrieved copies of military orders from Israeli archives. We translated dozens of Arabic and Hebrew interviews as well as secondary documents. And we interviewed and consulted with some of the most respected historians in the field.*

*This has been a colossal amount of work. We sincerely hope you get something out of it!*



# Additional Crew and Credits

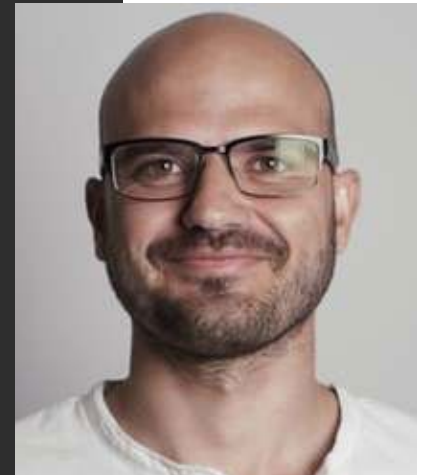
## Music:

**COMPOSERS ALEXIS MARSH AND SAMUEL JONES** began collaborating in 2010 after attending USC's Scoring for Motion Picture & Television program. Sharing a background in jazz, pop, and avant-garde music as well as a passion for cinematic storytelling, the two composers and multi-instrumentalists teamed up to form a studio that has since provided scores and songs to features, short films, documentaries, art installations, and advertising campaigns. Alexis & Sam's film work has been heard at major festivals around the world including Sundance, SXSW, Tribeca, Slamdance, Edinburgh Film Festival, Los Angeles Film Festival, AFI Fest, and the Champs Ellysees Film Festival. As collaborators with Los Angeles visual artists such as Alex Israel and Morrissa Maltz, their music has been featured in gallery exhibitions worldwide, including the Museum of Contemporary Art in Santa Barbara, Peres Projects in Berlin, and Reena Spaulings Fine Art in New York City



## Animation and Motion Graphics:

**MOTION GRAPHIC DESIGNER JORGE CONTRERAS** is a Motion Graphic Designer based in San Diego CA. He was born in Caracas Venezuela, where he studied Graphic Design. After graduating moved to Barcelona Spain to pursue studies in 3D animation and motion design. There he worked for several Agencies as Art Director and Freelance 3D motion Designer. After living 7 years in Europe he got the opportunity to move to the US where he currently works at KPBS and as a Freelancer. He has been nominated two times for the EMMY NATAS Pacific Southwest under the category of Art Direction in 2013 and Graphic Arts Animation in 2014.



### **AMI ASHER, ASSOCIATE PRODUCER**

Ami Asher is a Hebrew-English translator and language editor specializing in the humanities, social sciences and the NGO sector. He is an activist in Zochrot – an NGO dedicated to raise Israeli Jews' awareness of the Nakba. He guides tours in Jaffa that trace physical evidence of its tragedy in 1948.

### **MOHANNAD MALAS, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

# Additional Resources

**Discussion Guide and Screening Toolkit (forthcoming)**

**Haaretz Newspaper:** <https://www.haaretz.com>

**Middle East institute:** <http://www.mei.edu>

**List of UN resolutions concerning Israel and/or Palestine:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists\\_of\\_UN\\_resolutions\\_concerning\\_Israel\\_and\\_Palestine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_UN_resolutions_concerning_Israel_and_Palestine)

**Institute for Palestine Studies:**

<http://www.palestine-studies.org/>

**Wikipedia entry for 1948 Palestine War:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1948\\_Palestine\\_war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1948_Palestine_war)

**Wikipedia entry for 1948 Palestinian Exodus:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1948\\_Palestinian\\_exodus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1948_Palestinian_exodus)

**Palestine Remembered:**

<http://www.palestineremembered.com/>

## **CONTACT:**

For Screenings and Rentals:

**Renée Gasch** [renee@impactmediapartners.com](mailto:renee@impactmediapartners.com)

For Distribution and Media:

**Dennis Palmieri** [dennis@impactmediapartners.com](mailto:dennis@impactmediapartners.com)