

A STORY OF REVENGE...
CHANGE...
AND FORGIVENESS...



AN EYE FOR AN EYE

A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY
ILAN ZIV

Length – 98 min

Format – 16:9 DCP

Sound – 5,1 Surround

Language – English

© 2016 6112072 Canada inc.

A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY ILAN ZIV

FILMOPTION INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS A 6112072 CANADA INC. PRODUCTION OF AN ILAN ZIV FILM 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE'
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SAMUEL SHINN EDITORS DAVID LEGUERRIER AND GEORGE T. CLARKE
WRITER PAUL CADIEUX MUSIC ROBERT MARCEL LEPAGE SOUND MICHEL LAMBERT
VOICE TALENT HARRY STANDJOFSKI AND MARK CAMACHO PRODUCER PAUL CADIEUX DIRECTOR ILAN ZIV
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MARYSE ROUILLARD



SYNOPSIS

In the weeks following 9/11, dozens of attacks against Muslims, Sikhs and other minorities were reported across America. Among the perpetrators was Mark Stroman, who began "hunting Arabs," as he described his nightly prowling. He set targets on anyone he thought came from the Middle East. His victims happened to be immigrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and India. He killed two and partially blinded a young man from Bangladesh. He was arrested, convicted and sentenced to Death.

In a rare twist of fate, in the weeks before his impending execution, his only surviving victim became his biggest advocate – Rais Bhuiyan, a devoted Muslim, began a campaign to spare Mark's life in the name of Islam and its notion of mercy.

With unprecedented access and in-depth interviews, the film charts this riveting drama of revenge, change and forgiveness. At its heart is the profound bond forged between Stroman and the Israeli born filmmaker Ilan Ziv. For the first time in Mark's life, the narrative of hate starts to wear off as he begins a journey inward that challenges some of his most intolerable thoughts about the people and the world he lives in. A powerful human drama that carries a warning and a message of hope in our troubled times.



THE STORY

A TRUE STORY OF REVENGE, CHANGE AND FORGIVENESS

He was a "Lone Wolf" – years before the term was appropriated to describe self-inspired individuals on a killing rampages who use religion as vindication of their actions.

In the days following the 9/11 attacks, Mark Stroman began "hunting Arabs," – as he described it – his nights occupied by prowling the highways and running victims off the road.

To avenge the deaths of the twin towers, he graduated to shooting people whom he believed were Muslims from the Middle East – they were actually immigrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and a Hindu from India. He killed two and partially blinded a young man from Bangladesh.

Thankfully, he was arrested before he could commit his planned massacre of dozens of Muslim worshipers at a local Dallas Mosque. Stroman was going to make a statement "like Muhamad Atta (the hijacker of the first 9/11 plane) did" trying to avenge the senseless killing of innocent Americans by killing innocent Muslim worshipers. To his friends, he had said that he planned to die in the carnage and mayhem. Luckily police got to him first.

The Press at the time described Stroman as an "American terrorist." Today we might as well call him an "American Lone Wolf."

From 2004 and for the next 7 years, filmmaker Ilan Ziv met and befriended Mark Stroman on Texas' infamous Death Row, where he had been since his capital murder conviction in 2002. At trial Stroman was described by the prosecutor as a "monster, a cancer to society", yet Ilan was perplexed to meet a complex man full of contradictions, who shared the same troubled soul as the most recent "lone wolves" who used Jihad as a cover for their personal failings and justification for their crimes. By then, Stroman had become a man in search of meaning and redemption. So Ziv set out to document what he called "the enigma of Mark Stroman."

The result is a fascinating portrait of a serial killer, and a unique insight into the profound changes he went through.

Ziv chronicled his relationship on film, but also set up a blog for Stroman. Unbeknownst to both the filmmaker and Stroman, among the growing readership was Rais Bhuiyan, Mark's only surviving victim.

An Islamic pilgrimage seeded in Rais a desire to forgive Mark and to spare his life. He had a "strange" idea: if he was ever to be whole, he must reenter Stroman's life. He longed to confront Stroman and speak to him face to face about the attack that changed their lives.

Mark asked for forgiveness from his victims and Bhuiyan publicly forgave him, in the name of his religion and its notion of mercy. Then two months before Mark's execution, Rais waged a legal and public relations campaign against the State of Texas and Governor Rick Perry, to have his attacker spared from the death penalty.

An Eye for an Eye is the record of this riveting human drama of revenge, change and forgiveness, and of the surprising friendship that developed between the Israeli born filmmaker and Mark Stroman, who by his own admission, had never travelled beyond Dallas let alone Texas.

It is a tale that stands as a poignant message in times when fear, hate and revenge are part of the daily rhetoric.

Three days before his execution, Mark Stroman declared in an interview; "If a terror attack happens again, stay united and do not stereotype the Muslims... Don't be a dumbass... do not be a Mark Stroman." Those words are more relevant today than when they were recorded just 5 years ago.





8pm



DIRECTOR'S BIO

Ilan Ziv was born in Israel in 1950 and came to the United States after fighting in the Yom Kippur (*The October*) War in 1973. Ilan Ziv is a graduate of New York University film school, and in 1978 he co-produced New York's first Middle East Film Festival. That same year he founded Icarus Films, a documentary film distribution company, which he left in 1980 in order to devote himself to making documentary films, and since then he has directed dozens of documentaries dealing broadly with issues of human rights and investigations of contemporary history.

His most recent film is the 6 parts series *Capitalism* broadcast on ARTE October 2015 and received rave reviews. The series is now being distributed internationally. "With this series," wrote Le Monde in a full page review, "Ilan Ziv authors a captivating epic that helps us understand today's crisis of inequality... the series will undoubtedly remain a major contribution to social and economic thought."

His film *Jesus Politics: The Bible and the Ballot* is a personal examination of the role of religion in American politics that premiered before the 2008 US elections and was released in France, Germany, United Kingdom, Canada, Israel, Austria, Denmark and PBS in the United States. It was hailed by the Toronto Globe & Mail as a "fascinating documentary...admirably balanced." The Times of London called it "an eye opening film." La Vie in France described it as "gripping." Israel Today wrote that it was "a highly original... point of view...powerful imagery and spectacular editing."

In June 2007 his film *Six Days: The War That Changed The Middle East* opened theatrically in New York and was broadcast around the world including on PBS in the United States.

"Ilan Ziv provides invaluable perspective and fresh insights while offering an enlightening history lesson with the narrative momentum of an engrossing drama."
VARIETY

"Six Days gives the *Battle of Algiers* a run for its money."
TIME OUT

"With interviews with insiders and a number of key players, and a wealth of archival footage, Ziv's gripping film is as tense as any Hollywood movie and filled with a cast of larger-than-life personalities."
TV GUIDE

His other critically acclaimed films have included *On the Edge of Peace* (1995); *Tango of Slaves* (1994); and *Human Weapon* (2002) hailed by the New York Times as "gripping and important." His films have been broadcast by leading television networks worldwide and presented in film festivals around the world. Accolades include: Prix Europa's (Europe highest television award) Special Commendation, Silver Nymph and International Jury Award in Monte Carlo, Cine Eagle in the United States and the Best Documentary Award at Israel's Haifa International Film Festival.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHIE

- 2016 **An Eye for an Eye (Documentary)**
- 2014 **Capitalism (TV Mini-Series documentary)**
- 2011 **Exile: A Myth Unearthed**
- 2008 **Jesus Politics (TV Movie documentary)**
- 2007 **Six Days in June (Documentary)**
- 2006 **American Experience (TV Series documentary) (1 episode) - Hijacked (2006)**
- 2005 **1970, 400 otages pour libérer la Palestine (TV Movie documentary)**
- 2004 **Junction (Video documentary)**
- 2004 **Litigating Disaster (Documentary)**
- 2004 **The Junction (Documentary)**
- 2003 **Human Weapon (Documentary)**
- 1995 **Yellow Wasps**
- 1994 **Teen Dreams (Documentary)**





PRODUCER'S BIO

Paul Cadieux is one of Canada's leading and most active film and television producers. Among numerous other awards, he has won a Genie Award for Best Motion Picture for the Oscar-nominated *Les Triplettes de Belleville*. In his more than three decades as a producer, co-producer, executive producer and distributor, Paul often prefers to operate out of the limelight, yet has been centrally involved in dozens of major Canadian and international projects and hundreds of television episodes ranging from children's animation series to thriller feature films, romantic comedies, travel shows, reality programming, international co-productions, feature documentaries and TV series.

His most recent contributions to the documentary world include *P.S. Jerusalem* by Danae Elon, which has played in countless festivals around the world including Berlin and TIFF; and the critically acclaimed *The Settlers* by Shimon Dotan, which debuted at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival.

DISTRIBUTOR

Filmoption International is a Canadian based international distribution company that specializes in high quality feature films and television programs. Founded in 1979, Filmoption represents a catalogue of films that span genres from auteur classics to feature documentaries to dramas and family oriented films. The company also represents a vast library of television programs including series, documentaries and magazine style programs. Recent films include the acclaimed feature documentary *The Price We Pay* by Harold Crooks that sheds light on corporate tax avoidance; *Transfixed* by Alon Kol, a documentary about a unique transgender couple; *P.S. Jerusalem* the acclaimed personal film by documentarist Danae Elon.



DISTRIBUTION AND SALES

Filmoption International
Andrew Noble – VP Distribution and Sales
3401 Saint-Antoine W, Montreal (Qc)
H3Z 1X1 Canada
+1 514 931 6180 x 2657
email@filmoption.com

PRESS

Ryan Bruce Levey
Film distribution and PR Services
+1 647 781 0818
rylevey@gmail.com