

Publicity

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Sefarad

How hope, faith and humanity brought a Jewish community back to life

Feature 2019 90 min

**Synopsis**

This sumptuous and absorbing historical drama recounts the story of the Jews in Portugal since 1496, when King D. Manuel prohibited Judaism. Officially the Jewish community disappears, although in many villages Crypto-Judaism is kept alive. It is not until the end of the Inquisition in the nineteenth century that the Jews slowly begin to return to Portugal. A small community of Ashkenazi Jews settles in Oporto, and these are joined by a Portuguese military officer converted to Judaism, who soon begins to travel, sometimes on horseback, seeking to bring back to official Judaism those who practise crypto-Judaism. This project, although heroic, does not have the desired outcome. But five centuries after D. Manuel's edict led to the mass exodus of the Jewish community, a new law promoted their return to the land they had been forced to forsake. With a sweeping look, Sefarad is a timely film that will make you reflect on the true worth of faith, love, and selfless valor.

Credits

Director: Luís Ismael
Producer: Maria Pacheco
Script History: Research Center of the Jewish
Community of Oporto
Cinematography: Francisco Vidinha
Editor: Marco Carvalho
Original Music: Pedro Marques

Cast: Rodrigo Santos, Pedro Galiza, Ana Vargas,
Gabriela Relvas
Original Language: English, Portuguese, Hebrew,
Yiddish
Subtitles: English, Portuguese
Produced with the help of CIP/CJP
Sound Designer: Luís Silveira
Photo Credit: Sefarad production team.

Links

Sefarad password protected link for screening: Go to sefaradmovie.com/press and complete form. We will send an immediate password protected link.



Director

Luís Ismael is a Portuguese producer, director, and founder of the production company Lightbox, which is the largest film producer in Northern Portugal. Sefarad is Luís's fifth feature film and recounts the story of the Jews in Portugal since 1496 until now. He is working with the Jewish community for which he has also produced "The Nun's Kaddish" and the movie "1618" on the Inquisition.

Festivals & Awards

SPECIAL PRIZE for Contribution to Preservation of Sephardic Culture and History

Moscow Jewish Film Festival, 2019

SPECIAL DISTINCTION for Preservation of Jewish Memory International Council of B'nai B'rith, 2019

Festival Highlights

Moscow Jewish Film Festival, Russia, 2019

International Council of B'nai B'rith, 2019

Washington Jewish Film Festival, USA, 2019

Toronto Jewish Film Festival, Canada, 2019

Miami Jewish Film Festival, USA, 2019

London Jewish Film Festival, UK, 2019

Montevideo Jewish Festival, Uruguay, 2019

Rio de Janeiro Jewish Film Festival, Brazil, 2019

Sao Paulo Jewish Film Festival, Brazil, 2019

Bragança Lands of Sefarad, Portugal, 2019

Israeli Film Days in Lisbon, Portugal, 2019

Montevideo Jewish Festival, Uruguay, 2019

Miami Jewish Film Festival, USA, 2019