


# MUMBAI JEWS

A documentary by Oren Rosenfeld and Michal Lee Sapir

A Holyland Productions film

# Mumbai Jews

## ONE-SENTENCE DESCRIPTION

*A documentary that follows two Mumbai Jews, a Baghdadi scholar racing to preserve a vanishing architectural heritage and a Bene Israel businesswoman whose son joins the Israeli army, weaving together 2,000 years of Jewish past and present.*

## SYNOPSIS

Mumbai Jews is a documentary about the rich cultural tapestry of India's Jewish communities, told through the intertwined journeys of two people fighting for preservation. Dr. Shaul Sapir, a Mumbai-born Baghdadi Jew, returns to the city of his birth after 44 years in Israel to document its vanishing Jewish urban heritage - the magnificent synagogues built by the "Rothschilds of the East." His quest takes a turn when he discovers a long-lost photo album, donated by the Sassoon family to the British Museum, whose hidden clues lead him to the forgotten Sassoon houses scattered across the city. In parallel we meet Edna Samuel, a member of the ancient Bene Israel community who runs a PR company, and whose roots in India span more than two millennia. Through her personal story, family history and lived experience, the film celebrates the unique story of Indian Jews - a community that flourished for centuries in harmony with its neighbors. When her son enlists in the Israeli army, she confronts the balance between her deep love for her Indian homeland and the pull of the Jewish homeland. With expert commentary, archival treasures and intimate access to synagogues and rituals, Mumbai Jews offers a look at a unique Jewish community shaped not by persecution but by peaceful coexistence, rich heritage and an enduring bond with India.

## FILM DETAILS

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| **Title** | Mumbai Jews |
| **Genre** | Documentary |
| **Year of production** | 2027 |
| **Country** | India, Israel |
| **Language** | English, Hindi, Hebrew. Subtitles: English, Hebrew |
| **Running time** | 60 minutes |
| **Print source** | Rough cut screener on request; final print to follow |
| **Production company** | Holyland Productions - www.holylandproductions.tv |

# Credits

## FILM CREDITS

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|---|---|
| **Directed and produced by** | Oren Rosenfeld & Michal Lee Sapir |
| **Written by** | Oren Rosenfeld |
| **Filmed by (cinematographer)** | Oren Rosenfeld |
| **Film editor** | Ami Drozd |
| **Editor** | Raphael Aboulafia |
| **Original music / score** | Jonathan Bar Giora |
| **Assistant producer** | Anusha Kaul Data |
| **Drone footage, India** | Kopal Goyal |
| **Drone footage, Israel** | Ilan Rosenberg |
| **Additional filming** | David Blumenfeld |
| **Poster designer** | Ellen Levy Arye |
| **Executive producers** | Celia Atkins, Marian and Abe Sofer, Suril Desai, David Berman |
| **Production company** | Holyland Productions |

## CAST / SUBJECTS



### Dr. Shaul Sapir

Born in Bombay to a Baghdadi Jewish family, Dr. Sapir is a Jewish-Indian scholar and an expert on the history of the Jews of Mumbai. He has taught Historical Geography at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem since 1975 and at the David Yellin Teachers College in Jerusalem, where he headed the Department of Geography.



### Edna Samuel

Director of Motif India, Edna Samuel is a member of the Bene Israel community. She has spent a decade in media, entertainment, fashion and events, working in advertising, public relations, brand management and event management for Indian and international clients.

# The filmmakers

## DIRECTOR / PRODUCER: OREN ROSENFELD




Oren Rosenfeld was born in Jerusalem in 1976. He is a documentary filmmaker and the founding manager of the award-winning production house Holyland Productions. He is a multi-Emmy Award winner and has produced and directed numerous documentaries, including Mumbai Jews, Hummus the Movie, The Real Fauda, Converts, Israel's Arab Warriors and The Ark. His films focus mainly on the Arab-Israeli conflict, history and Judaism.

## DIRECTOR / PRODUCER: MICHAL LEE SAPIR



For the past decade Michal Lee Sapir has worked in Israel as a senior producer at Channel 10, and has produced documentary projects for Channel 2 and the Israeli documentary Channel 8. She produced Hummus the Movie and has produced prime-time television programs and documentaries for Israeli Channel 10 and Channel 2. Her work has taken her to more than 20 countries. She holds a B.A. in film studies from Tel Aviv University.

## EDITOR: AMI DROZD

Ami Drozd has worked as a feature film director and documentary filmmaker for 30 years, and as a film editor for 28 years. His children's film My Australia (2011) was nominated for an APSA and won the Audience Award at the Jerusalem Film Festival.

## COMPOSER: JONATHAN BAR GIORA

Israeli composer and pianist Jonathan Bar Giora has composed the music for more than 150 Israeli films since 2000, including Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi, Time of Favor, Queen Shoshana and Hummus the Movie.

## PRESS AND DISTRIBUTION CONTACT

7th Art Releasing | info@7thart.com | 323-259-8259
Production: Holyland Productions | +972-503-302-620 | oren.rosenfeld@gmail.com
www.holylandproductions.tv

# Stills

Preview selection. Original high-resolution files supplied with the full press package.













# Stills (continued)

Preview selection. Original high-resolution files supplied with the full press package.













# Stills (continued)

Recent production photos. Original high-resolution files supplied with the full press package.











