

Movies with Abe

Daily film reviews, weekly features, and seasonal awards coverage from a film enthusiast.

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2015 Film Reviews

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Brooklyn

Friday, October 9, 2015

Movies with Abe: The Prime Ministers: Soldiers and Peacemakers



The Prime Ministers: Soldiers and Peacemakers
Directed by Richard Trank
Released October 9, 2015

Two years ago, Moriah Films released “[The Prime Ministers: The Pioneers](#),” an in-depth look at Levi Eshkol and Golda Meir, two early prime ministers of a young Israeli nation, adapted from a nonfiction book written by Ambassador Yehuda Avner, who served in a number of capacities under five different heads of state. The film, while interesting, never reached a truly invigorating point, and it’s reassuring to see that the second part of the cinematic adaptation of Avner’s book, featuring the late politician in interviews throughout, is a much stronger and more magnetic project.

The focus of this chapter is on two other prime ministers, Yitzhak Rabin and Menachem Begin. An excitable Avner introduces the two intimidating figures and explains their origins and how they came to be elected and to serve, sprinkling the historical narrative with some choice anecdotes, including a memorable visit to the White House in which Rabin made President Ford believe that it was Avner’s birthday and that’s why he was getting special attention from his tablemates rather than have the Israeli press catch wind of the fact that Avner had ordered a kosher meal and Rabin hadn’t.

The film is laced with such moments of humor and lightheartedness among stories of noble political leaders from a number of nations coming very close to reaching monumental peace agreements only to be assassinated by insurgents intent on continuing tensions and worsening them. It is incredible to see just how much of the film deals with foreign policy, and how big a role the United States and its leader play in everything. The

Cake
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Cheatin'
Closer to the Moon
Clouds of Sils Maris
Deli Man
Effie Gray
Experimenter
Felix and Meira
Forbidden Films
Furious 7
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Stockholm, Pennsylvania
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Out the Window and Disappeared
The Black Panthers
The Bronze
The Film Critic
The Games Maker
The Gunman
The Last Time You Had Fun
The Overnight
The Riot Club
The Salt of the Earth
Timbuktu
Touchdown Israel
True Story
Western
Wild Tales
Woman in Gold
Z for Zachariah

2014 Film Reviews

52 Tuesdays
A Coffee in Berlin
A Most Violent Year
A Most Wanted Man
A Murder in the Park
A Promise
Alan Partridge
American Sniper
Annie
Antarctica: A Year on Ice
Appropriate Behavior
Begin Again
Belle
Beside Still Waters

transition from Ford to Carter is particularly striking, and Avner paints a relatively neutral portrait of their attitudes on Israel as defined by their words and actions at the time.

Avner, who passed away in March at the age of eighty-six, brings to life two long-dead prime ministers whose left immense and unforgettable legacies. His energy and amazement at the way that these two men overcame many struggles to take on the difficult task of leading their country towards some semblance of harmony within its borders and with its treacherous neighbors is infectious, and the celebrity voices of Michael Douglas and Christoph Waltz are less prominent and distracting than they were in the first film. This second half proves far more engaging and magnificent in its own right, thanks in large part to the energy of its narrator.

B+

Posted by Movies with Abe at 10/09/2015

Labels: 2015 Films, Soldiers and Peacemakers, The Prime Ministers, The Prime Ministers
Soldiers and Peacemakers

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Ida
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Into the Woods
Intramural
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Joe
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Kill the Messenger
Laggies
Land Ho
Le Week-End
Leviathan
Life Itself
Life Partners
Life's a Breeze
Lilting
Listen Up Philip
Locke
Low Down
Maleficent
Manhattan Romance
Metro Manila
Miss Julie
Miss Tibet

Mr. Peabody and Sherman
Mr. Turner
Next Year Jerusalem
Night Moves
Nightcrawler
Obvious Child
Omar
One Chance
Penguins of Madagascar
Pride
Red Knot
Rich Hill
Rocks in My Pockets
Rosewater
Rudderless
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Sleeping with the Fishes
Snowpiercer
Song One
Song of the Sea
St. Vincent
Stand Clear of the Closing Doors
Starred Up
Still Alice
Tasting Menu
The Amazing Spider-Man 2
The Better Angels
The Congress
The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby
The Double
The Drop
The Face of Love
The Grand Budapest Hotel
The Grand Seduction
The Green Prince
The Homesman
The Hundred-Foot Journey
The Imitation Game
The Lego Movie
The Little Bedroom
The Moment
The Monuments Men
The Sleepwalker
The Supreme Price
The Theory of Everything
The Way He Looks
Titli
Two Days, One Night
Two Night Stand
Unbroken
Viva la Liberta
Walking with the Enemy
War Story
West
Whiplash
White Bird in a Blizzard
Whitewash
Whitey: United States of America vs.
James J. Bulger
Wild
Winter in the Blood
Wish I Was Here
X
Young Ones
Youth

2013 Film Reviews

12 Years a Slave
A River Changes Course
A Single Shot
A.C.O.D.
Aftermath
Afternoon Delight
All is Bright
All is Lost
American Hustle
At Any Price
August: Osage County
Bert and Arnie's Guide to Friendship
Best Man Down
Between Us
Blackfish
Blancanieves
Blue Jasmine
Blue is the Warmest Color
C.O.G.
Capital
Captain Phillips
Concussion
Crystal Fairy
Dallas Buyers Club
Dead Man's Burden
Despicable Me 2
Diana
Dirty Wars
Don Jon
Enough Said
Erased
Ernest and Celestine
Fast and Furious 6
Fill the Void
Frances Ha
Frozen
Fruitvale
Gravity
Hava Nagila: The Movie
Her
In a World...
Inside Llewyn Davis
Iron Man 3
It's Me, It's Me
Just a Sigh
Kill Your Darlings
Koch
Lasting
Let My People Go!
Lore
Love Is All You Need
Lovelace
Man of Steel
Manhunt
May in the Summer
Monsters University
Morning
Mud
Nebraska
No

Only God Forgives
Our Day Will Come
Paranoia
Philomena
Plush
Prince Avalanche
Prisoners
Rush
Saving Mr. Banks
Side Effects
Six Acts
Spring Breakers
Stand Up Guys
Star Trek Into Darkness
State 194
Still Mine
Stories We Tell
The Butler
The Counselor
The Croods
The East
The English Teacher
The Fifth Estate
The Gatekeepers
The Genius of Marian
The Great Beauty
The Great Gatsby
The Hunt
The Iceman
The Lifeguard
The Look of Love
The Past
The Paw Project
The Prime Ministers
The Spectacular Now
The Square
The To Do List
The Way, Way Back
The Wolf of Wall Street
The World According to Dick Cheney
This Is the End
This is Martin Bonner
Touchy Feely
Valentine Road
Warm Bodies
What Maisie Knew
What's in a Name
Wish You Were Here

2012 Film Reviews

10 Years
30 Beats
About Cherry
All In
All In The Poker Movie
Amour
Anna Karenina
Arbitrage
Argo
Ashley's Ashes
Backwards
Beasts of the Southern Wild
Beauty is Embarrassing

Bernie
Big Miracle
Brave
Cheerful Weather for the Wedding
Chico & Rita
Citizen Gangster
Compliance
Damsels in Distress
Detachment
Django Unchained
Elles
Extraterrestrial
Flight
Footnote
Goodbye First Love
Grassroots
Headhunters
Helena
Hit and Run
Hitchcock
Hope Springs
Hyde Park on Hudson
In Darkness
It Is No Dream
La Rafle
Les Misérables
Life of Pi
Lincoln
Looper
Mirror Mirror
Moonrise Kingdom
My Life as Abraham Lincoln
People Like Us
Perfect Sense
Price Check
Prometheus
Quartet
Return
Rock of Ages
Ruby Sparks
Rust and Bone
Safety Not Guaranteed
Salmon Fishing in the Yemen
Seeking Justice
Silver Linings Playbook
Simon and the Oaks
Skyfall
Take This Waltz
The Amazing Spider-Man
The Assault
The Avengers
The Babymakers
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
The Black Tulip
The Brooklyn Brothers Beat the Best
The Dark Knight Rises
The Deep Blue Sea
The Five-Year Engagement
The Giant Mechanical Man
The Grey
The Guilt Trip
The Hobbit
The Impossible
The Imposter
The Invisible War

The Island President
The Master
The Runway
The Sessions
The Tortured
The Well-Digger's Daughter
The Yakuza and the Mermaid
This Is Not a Film
To Rome with Love
Trouble with the Curve
Wagner and Me
We Have a Pope
Your Sister's Sister
Zero Dark Thirty

2011 Film Reviews

30 Minutes or Less
5 Days of War
50/50
A Better Life
A Dangerous Method
A Good Old-Fashioned Orgy
A Little Help
A Separation
Albert Nobbs
Attack the Block
Bad Teacher
Beautiful Boy
Beware the Gonzo
Bombay Beach
Bridesmaids
Brighton Rock
Brothers Justice
Captain America: The First Avenger
Cargo
Carnage
Cars 2
Cedar Rapids
Certified Copy
Coriolanus
Crazy Stupid Love
Dirty Girl
Do Not Disturb
Drive
Earthwork
Everything Must Go
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close
Faces in the Crowd
Fast Five
Friends with Benefits
Glorious 39
Grey Matter
Griff the Invisible
Gun Hill Road
Hall Pass
Hanna
Happy Feet Two
Happy, Happy
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
- Part 2
Hesher
Hey Boo: Harper Lee and To Kill a
Mockingbird

Honest Man: The Life of R. Budd
Dwyer
Hugo
I Am
In a Better World
In the Land of Blood and Honey
Incendies
J Edgar
Janie Jones
Jiro Dreams of Sushi
Last Night
London Boulevard
Love During Wartime
Margin Call
Maria My Love
Martha Marcy May Marlene
Mary Marie
Meet Monica Velour
Melancholia
Midnight in Paris
Miral
Moneyball
Mr Nice
My Week with Marilyn
New Year's Eve
No Strings Attached
Octubre
Of Gods and Men
One Day
Orgasm Inc
Our Idiot Brother
Peep World
Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger
Tides
Puncture
Rango
Rebirth
Revenge of the Electric Car
Rise of the Planet of the Apes
Romantics Anonymous
Salvation Boulevard
Seven Days in Utopia
Shame
Sherlock Holmes A Game of Shadows
Special Treatment
Submarine
Super
Take Me Home Tonight
Take Shelter
That's What I Am
The Adjustment Bureau
The Adventures of Tintin
The Artist
The Bang Bang Club
The Change-Up
The Conspirator
The Debt
The Descendants
The First Grader
The Future
The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
The Greatest Movie Ever Sold
The Green
The Green Hornet
The Help

The High Cost of Living
The Ides of March
The Iron Lady
The Other Woman
The Skin I Live In
The Tree of Life
The Way
The Way Back
The Whistleblower
Thor
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy
Toast
Tucker & Dale vs. Evil
Turn Me On Goddamit
War Horse
Warrior
We Need to Talk About Kevin
When We Leave
White Irish Drinkers
Win Win
Winnie the Pooh
Young Adult

2010 Film Reviews

11/4/08
127 Hours
A Prophet
A Woman, a Gun, and a Noodle Shop
After.Life
Ajami
Alice in Wonderland
All Good Things
Animal Kingdom
Another Year
Barney's Version
Biutiful
Black Swan
Blue Valentine
Breaking Upwards
brilliantlove
Burlesque
Casino Jack
Casino Jack and the United States of
Money
Catfish
Centurion
Chloe
Clash of the Titans
Client 9: The Rise and Fall of Eliot
Spitzer
Colin Fitz Lives!
Conviction
Cop Out
Countdown to Zero
Creation
Cyrus
Daddy Longlegs
Date Night
Daybreakers
Dear John
Despicable Me
District 13: Ultimatum
Douchebag

Down Terrace
Due Date
Easy A
Exit through the Gift Shop
Fair Game
Fish Tank
Flipped
Four Lions
Freakonomics: The Movie
Get Low
Greenberg
Handsome Harry
Happiness Runs
Harlan: In the Shadow of Jew Suss
Harlem Aria
Harry Brown
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
- Part 1
Heartbreaker
Heartless
Hemingway's Garden of Eden
Hereafter
Highwater
Holy Rollers
Hot Tub Time Machine
How Do You Know
How to Train Your Dragon
Hugh Hefner: Playboy, Activist, and
Rebel
I Am Love
I Love You Phillip Morris
I'm Still Here
Inception
Inhale
Inside Job
Iron Man 2
Its Kind of a Funny Story
Kisses
Knight and Day
Knucklehead
La Soga
Lbs.
Leaves of Grass
Leaving
Lebanon
Life During Wartime
Looking for Eric
Love and Other Drugs
Made in Dagenham
Mao's Last Dancer
Micmacs
Monsters
Mother
Mother and Child
Multiple Sarcasms
My Dog Tulip
My Joy
Never Let Me Go
Ondine
Paper Man
Please Give
Precious Life
Rabbit Hole
Red
Red Hill

Red Riding: 1974
Red Riding: 1980
Red Riding: 1983
Restrepo
Robin Hood
Saint Misbehavin': The Wavy Gravy
Movie
Salt
Scott Pilgrim vs the World
Secretariat
Severe Clear
Shutter Island
Skyline
Smash His Camera
Somewhere
Soul Kitchen
Stolen
Stone
Tamara Drewe
Tangled
The American
The Art of the Steal
The City of Your Final Destination
The Company Men
The Disappearance of Alice Creed
The Dry Land
The Eclipse
The Exploding Girl
The Father of My Children
The Fighter
The Freebie
The Ghost Writer
The Girl on the Train
The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest
The Girl Who Played with Fire
The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
The Good Guy
The Good Heart
The Greatest
The Illusionist
The Joneses
The Kids Are All Right
The Killer Inside Me
The King's Speech
The Last Airbender
The Last New Yorker
The Losers
The Lottery
The Most Dangerous Man in America
The Other Guys
The Romantics
The Secret in their Eyes
The Secret of Kells
The Social Network
The Tempest
The Tourist
The Town
The Wolfman
The Yellow Handkerchief
Toe to Toe
Toy Story 3
True Grit
Valentine's Day
Vincere
Waiting for Armageddon

Waiting for Superman
Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps
We Are What We Are
When You're Strange
White Material
White Wedding
Who Do You Love
Wild Grass
Winter's Bone
You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger
Youth in Revolt

2009 Film Reviews

500 Days of Summer
9
A Serious Man
A Single Man
Adventureland
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel
Amelia
American Violet
An Education
Angels and Demons
Avatar
Away We Go
Brief Interviews with Hideous Men
Bright Star
Broken Embraces
Bronson
Brothers
Bruno
Burma VJ
Capitalism: A Love Story
Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
Coco Before Chanel
Coraline
Crazy Heart
District 9
Duplicity
Extract
Fantastic Mr. Fox
Fast & Furious
Food Beware
Food, Inc.
Funny People
Gentlemen Broncos
Gomorra
House of the Devil
I Love You, Man
In The Loop
Inglorious Basterds
Invictus
It's Complicated
Julia
Julie & Julia
Me and Orson Welles
Moon
New York, I Love You
Nine
Observe and Report
Ong Bak 2
Peter and Vandy

Pirate Radio
Police, Adjective
Precious
Public Enemies
Serious Moonlight
Sherlock Holmes
Skin
Star Trek
State of Play
Summer Hours
Sunshine Cleaning
Surveillance
Taken
Taking Woodstock
Terminator Salvation
That Evening Sun
The Blind Side
The Cove
The End of Poverty?
The Girlfriend Experience
The Hangover
The Hurt Locker
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus
The Informant!
The International
The Last Station
The Lovely Bones
The Men Who Stare At Goats
The Messenger
The Missing Person
The Princess and the Frog
The Proposal
The Road
The Slammin' Salmon
The Soloist
The Strip
The Taking of Pelham 123
The Time Traveler's Wife
The Ugly Truth
The White Ribbon
The Young Victoria
Trucker
Uncertainty
Up
Up in the Air
Watchmen
Whatever Works
Where the Wild Things Are
Whip It
Whiteout
Zombieland

Oscar Predictions & AFT Awards (Previous Years)

Best Picture
Best Actor in a Leading Role
Best Actress in a Leading Role
Best Actor in a Supporting Role
Best Actress in a Supporting Role
Best Director

Best Original Screenplay
Best Adapted Screenplay
Best Cinematography
Best Art Direction
Best Costume Design
Best Film Editing
Best Original Score
Best Original Song
Best Sound
Best Sound Editing
Best Visual Effects
Best Foreign Film
Best Animated Feature
Best Documentary
Best Documentary Short
Best Animated Short
Best Live Action Short

Golden Globe Predictions (Previous Years)

Best Motion Picture - Drama
Best Motion Picture - Comedy/Musical
Best Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama
Best Actress in a Motion Picture -
Drama
Best Actor in a Motion Picture -
Comedy/Musical
Best Actress in a Motion Picture -
Comedy/Musical
Best Actor in a Supporting Role in a
Motion Picture
Best Actress in a Supporting Role in a
Motion Picture
Best Director
Best Screenplay
Best Original Score
Best Original Song
Best Foreign Film
Best Animated Film

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About Me



 [Movies with Abe](#)

Film and television enthusiast, with a special emphasis on seeing every Oscar-nominated movie and fall TV pilot each year! Visit my movie and television sites, both of which should have something of interest for you! E-mail me at abe@movieswithabe.com with any questions or comments!

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