

# THE PRIME MINISTERS: SOLDIERS AND PEACEMAKERS

**Documentary directed by Richard Trank**

**Produced by Richard Trank and Rabbi Marvin Hier**

A Moriah Films Release

**Opens in NY at the AMC Empire on October 9, 2015**

**Opens in LA at the Laemmle Royal & Laemmle Town Center  
on October 14, 2015**

In English  
111 Minutes

**Distributor:**

Susanne Jacobson  
Double Exposure LLC  
577 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
San Pedro, CA 90731  
(310) 720-5092  
susannecj@gmail.com

**Press Contact for NY & LA:**

Sasha Berman  
Shotwell Media  
2721 2nd Street, #205  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
(310) 450-5571  
SashaBerman@mac.com

**[www.theprimeministers-thefilm.com](http://www.theprimeministers-thefilm.com)**

**[www.moriahfilms.com](http://www.moriahfilms.com)**

## SYNOPSIS

Moriah Films' newest feature documentary is ***The Prime Ministers: Soldiers and Peacemakers***. The follow up film to ***The Prime Ministers: The Pioneers***, which opened in theatres throughout North America in the fall of 2013 to sold out audiences and much critical acclaim. ***The Prime Ministers: Soldiers and Peacemakers*** is Moriah's 14<sup>th</sup> documentary.

The film follows the experiences of the late Ambassador Yehuda Avner during the years he worked for Prime Ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Menachem Begin. Based on Ambassador Avner's best-selling book, *The Prime Ministers*, the film examines Rabin's election as the country's first native born Israeli leader in 1974, his negotiating the first bilateral treaty between Israel and Egypt in 1975, the dramatic events surrounding Israel's rescue of hostages in Entebbe in 1976, the tense relationship between newly elected US President Jimmy Carter and Rabin and Rabin's subsequent downfall in a financial scandal involving his wife Leah. The movie also explores Ambassador Avner's decision to work for Menachem Begin when he surprised the world in 1977 by being elected the Prime Minister of Israel. It looks at the drama behind Anwar Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem, the Camp David negotiating process, the difficult relationship between President Carter and Menachem Begin as well as the tense relations that arose between Begin and President Reagan over the 1982 Lebanon War. The documentary also recounts Begin's decline after the death of his beloved wife Aliza, and Yehuda Avner's career as a diplomat in the UK and Australia before returning to Israel to work with Yitzhak Rabin not long before his assassination in 1995, after he had been elected a second time as Israel's Prime Minister.

Starring the voices of Michael Douglas as Yitzhak Rabin and Christoph Waltz as Menachem Begin and introducing Nicola Peltz as the voice of Esther Cailingold, ***The Prime Ministers: Soldiers and Peacemakers*** is full of emotion and rich history with rare, never before seen photos and film footage.

## About Moriah Films

Moriah Films is a division of the Simon Wiesenthal Center which produces documentaries concerning human rights and the major events and personalities of 3,500 years of Jewish history.

Moriah Films has an unmatched track record, having produced twelve critically acclaimed documentaries: *Genocide*, *Echoes That Remain*, *Liberation*, *The Long Way Home*, *In Search of Peace Part One: 1948-1967*, *Unlikely Heroes*, *Ever Again*, *Beautiful Music*, *I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal*, *Against the Tide*, *Winston Churchill: Walking With Destiny*, *It Is No Dream* and *The Prime Ministers: The Pioneers*. Moriah was awarded the Oscar for Best Feature Documentary in 1981 for *Genocide* and, again, in 1997 for *The Long Way Home*.

Distinguished entertainment industry luminaries have narrated Moriah films, including Orson Welles, Sir Ben Kingsley, Elizabeth Taylor, Morgan Freeman, Michael York, Whoopi Goldberg, Nicole Kidman, Anne Bancroft, Brooke Shields, Kevin Costner, Michael Douglas, Dustin Hoffman, Christoph Waltz, Nicola Peltz and others. They have generously donated their talents.

Moriah Films has distribution rights throughout France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Portugal and the Benelux Countries (Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg). Moriah films have been televised throughout the Americas, including HBO, Discover, Starz, Showtime, Netflix and Amazon Prime. Overseas, the documentaries have been aired on Channel 4 in England, State Television in the People's Republic of China, Russian TV, Japan NHK's and Israeli TV. The films are also distributed to universities and Hillel houses across the country.

The Moriah Films audience is larger and more diverse than ever – educating and impacting people worldwide.

## RICHARD TRANK

### Biography and Filmography

Richard Trank is an Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker whose latest film is ***The Prime Ministers: Soldiers and Peacemakers***, based on the best-selling book by Ambassador Yehuda Avner, who served as a chief aide, English language note-taker and speechwriter to Levi Eshkol, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin, Menachem Begin, and Shimon Peres. The second in a two part series, ***The Prime Ministers: Soldiers and Peacemakers***, examines Ambassador Avner's experiences with Prime Ministers Yitzhak Rabin, Menachem Begin and Shimon Peres, his service as Israel's Ambassador to England and epic events such as the rescue at Entebbe, Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, the Camp David peace process, the war in Lebanon and the Oslo Accords. Written and produced along with Rabbi Marvin Hier, ***The Prime Ministers: Soldiers and Peacemakers*** stars the voices of Michael Douglas as Yitzhak Rabin and Christoph Waltz as Menachem Begin. The first part in the series, ***The Prime Ministers: The Pioneers***, released in 2013, explores the years Ambassador Avner worked for Prime Ministers Levi Eshkol and Golda Meir and the period he served as an aide to Yitzhak Rabin when he was Israel's US Ambassador in the late 1960's. It starred the voices of Sandra Bullock as Golda Meir, Michael Douglas as Yitzhak Rabin, Leonard Nimoy as Levi Eshkol and Christoph Waltz as Menachem Begin. ***The Prime Ministers: Soldiers and Peacemakers*** is the 14<sup>th</sup> release by Moriah Films, the documentary filmmaking division of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, of which Trank is the Executive Producer and principal Writer/Director.

In 2012, Trank wrote and directed ***It Is No Dream***, exploring the life and times of Theodor Herzl, father of the modern State of Israel. Once again co-writing and producing along with Rabbi Marvin Hier, ***It Is No Dream*** is narrated by Academy Award winner, Sir Ben Kingsley and stars Academy Award winner Christoph Waltz as the voice of Theodor Herzl. The film examines how Herzl, a well-known journalist and playwright, an assimilated, Budapest-born Jew, horrified by the Dreyfus trial in Paris and the anti-Semitism he saw spreading across Europe, took upon himself the task of attempting to create a Jewish homeland in Palestine against all odds. Over the span of 8 years, Herzl organized and led a worldwide political movement that, within 50 years, led to the establishment of the State of Israel. The film follows Herzl as he meets with Kings, Prime Ministers, Ambassadors, a Sultan, a Pope and government ministers from Constantinople to St. Petersburg, from Paris to Berlin, from Vienna to Vilna in his quest to build a Jewish nation.

In 2011, Trank wrote and directed ***Winston Churchill: Walking With Destiny***. Narrated by Academy Award-winning actor, Sir Ben Kingsley, the documentary focused on Winston Churchill's years in the political wilderness, his early opposition to Adolf Hitler and Nazism, and his return to government as Prime Minister in May 1940 by the demand of the British people. Sir Martin Gilbert, historical consultant for the film and Winston Churchill's official biographer, theorizes that Western Civilization as we know it was saved by Churchill during the period when he, alone among the world's leaders, stood up to Hitler and Nazism. He adds that had Churchill's warnings about Nazi Germany's racial policies towards Jews been heeded in the early 1930's,

“The Prime Ministers: Soldiers and Peacemakers”

the Holocaust would never have occurred. As historian John Lukacs explains in the film, Winston Churchill did not win the war in 1940. The war was won once the Americans and the Soviets entered the battle in 1941. But Lukacs points out that in 1940, the war could have been lost if it was not for Churchill. Among those featured in the film are Winston S. Churchill (his grandson and namesake), Celia Sandys (one of his granddaughters), best-selling author and historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, singer and actress Dame Vera Lynn and many eyewitnesses who survived the Battle of Britain. Featuring rare stills and archival film footage, the documentary also includes newly filmed sequences at Churchill's country home, Chartwell, the War Cabinet Rooms, the Parliament, Dunkirk, among other locations. ***Winston Churchill: Walking With Destiny*** played in film festivals around the world and was one of the highest grossing theatrical documentaries of 2011.

In 2009, Trank wrote the screenplay and directed ***Against The Tide***, narrated by Academy Award-winning actor Dustin Hoffman. ***Against The Tide*** examined the conflict that erupted in the American Jewish community in the late 1930's and 40's over the best means to rescue the Jews of Europe during the Holocaust. It told the little known story of Peter Bergson, who stood up against the American Jewish leadership and the Roosevelt Administration in his tireless efforts to save the Jews of Europe. The documentary also looked at how European Jews desperately tried to get the word to the outside world about what was happening to them to no avail. Shot on location in England, Germany, and Israel and featuring a never before seen interview with Bergson filmed by Claude Lanzmann (***Shoah***), the film also included an original score composed and conducted by Emmy and Grammy Award winner Lee Holdridge. Screened at the Tribeca Film Festival, the script for ***Against The Tide*** was nominated by the Writers Guild of America for Best Original Documentary Screenplay. It currently airs on the Documentary Channel and on IFC/Sundance in Europe and Asia.

In 2007, Trank directed ***I Have Never Forgotten You***, a comprehensive look at the life and legacy of Simon Wiesenthal, the famed Nazi hunter and humanitarian who died in 2005. Narrated by Academy Award-winning actress Nicole Kidman, it featured interviews with longtime Wiesenthal associates, government leaders from around the world, friends and family members. Wiesenthal's only child, Pauline, appeared in the film, giving her very first interview about her mother and father and their almost 70-year relationship. ***I Have Never Forgotten You*** was a selection of the 2007 Berlin International Film Festival, the Vienna International Film Festival, the Seattle International Film Festival as well as the Tribeca Film Festival where it was one of the top 10 films in the Audience Award category. It also won the Audience Award at the Cinevegas Film Festival and a Special Mention at the Jerusalem International Film Festival. ***I Have Never Forgotten You*** had successful theatrical releases in the US, the UK, France, Germany and Austria and has been a best-selling DVD in North America, Europe and Australia. It is currently available on DVD through Starz Entertainment, which owns its broadcast rights as well.

In 2006, Trank produced and directed ***Ever Again***, which examined the resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe and its connection to international terrorism. ***Ever Again*** was narrated by Kevin Costner and released in the US by Rocky Mountain Films in December 2006. It was also a selection of a number of film festivals in North America and Europe.

In early 2005, Trank completed production on ***Beautiful Music***, which was the winner of the 2005 Hollywood Film Festival for Best Documentary. Narrated by Brooke Shields, ***Beautiful Music*** told the emotional story of the relationship between an Orthodox Jewish music teacher and her blind and autistic Palestinian student.

In 2004, Trank wrote and directed ***Unlikely Heroes***, narrated by Sir Ben Kingsley, chronicling seven extraordinary people who either resisted or defied the Nazis during the Holocaust. ***Unlikely Heroes*** was a selection of the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival as well as the Hollywood Film Festival, among others.

In 2001, Trank wrote and directed ***In Search of Peace, Part One: 1948-1967***, an exploration of the first decades of Israel's existence, narrated by Michael Douglas and featuring the voices of Edward Asner, Anne Bancroft, Richard Dreyfus, and Michael York. ***In Search of Peace*** was featured at film festivals throughout North America, South America, Europe, Israel and South Africa.

In 1997, Trank produced ***The Long Way Home*** for which he won his Academy Award in 1998. Narrated by Morgan Freeman, the film examined the period between 1945-48, when the survivors of the Holocaust rebuilt their lives and helped to create the State of Israel. In addition to the Oscar, ***The Long Way Home***, was selected as part of the documentary competition at the Sundance Film Festival and won the Golden Hugo at the Chicago Film Festival. It aired on both Showtime and the Sundance Channel as well as on England's Channel Four.

In 1994, Trank was the Executive Producer of ***Liberation***, narrated by Sir Ben Kingsley, Whoopi Goldberg, Patrick Stewart and Miriam Margolyes. The documentary told the story of the liberation of Europe and Hitler's death camps by the Allies. Screened at the 1995 Berlin International Film Festival, among others, it was selected by the State of Israel as its official film commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. It aired on Cinemax and England's Channel Four.

In 1990, Trank co-produced the documentary ***Echoes That Remain***, about life in pre-WWII Eastern Europe, narrated by Martin Landau and Miriam Margolyes. The film won the 1992 Houston International Film Festival's Gold Jury Award.

For the past two decades, Trank has also served as the Executive Producer and principal writer and director of the film presentations for the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles and New York. He will be working in the same capacity for the Museum of Tolerance Jerusalem, currently under construction in Israel. In Denver, he was also the Executive Producer for the films at The Cell, the Counter Terrorism Learning Lab at Denver's Museum of Art. Throughout

the 1980's he was an accomplished producer of radio news and public affairs programming, having written and produced more than 5,000 one-minute radio features and more than 300 half-hour radio documentaries aired nationally by the **Public Affairs Broadcast Group**. In 1981, he created the weekly news magazine **Page One**, which aired on more than 150 radio stations across the US.

Trank earned his BA degree at the University of California, Berkeley and did graduate work at the University of Southern California. He currently serves as Executive Producer of **Moriah Films**, the documentary filming division of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and has been the Center's Media Projects Director since 1984.

## RABBI MARVIN HIER Biography and Filmography

Rabbi Marvin Hier is an Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker whose latest film is ***The Prime Ministers: Soldiers and Peacemakers***, based on the best-selling book by Ambassador Yehuda Avner, who served as a chief aide, English language note-taker and speechwriter to Levi Eshkol, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin, Menachem Begin, and Shimon Peres. The second in a two part series, ***The Prime Ministers: Soldiers and Peacemakers***, examines Ambassador Avner's experiences with Prime Ministers Yitzhak Rabin, Menachem Begin and Shimon Peres, his service as Israel's Ambassador to England and epic events such as the rescue at Entebbe, Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, the Camp David peace process, the war in Lebanon and the Oslo Accords. Written and produced along with Richard Trank, ***The Prime Ministers: Soldiers and Peacemakers*** stars the voices of Michael Douglas as Yitzhak Rabin and Christoph Waltz as Menachem Begin. The first part in the series, ***The Prime Ministers: The Pioneers***, released in 2013, explores the years Ambassador Avner worked for Prime Ministers Levi Eshkol and Golda Meir and the period he served as an aide to Yitzhak Rabin when he was Israel's US Ambassador in the late 1960's. It starred the voices of Sandra Bullock as Golda Meir, Michael Douglas as Yitzhak Rabin, Leonard Nimoy as Levi Eshkol and Christoph Waltz as Menachem Begin. ***The Prime Ministers: Soldiers and Peacemakers*** is the 14<sup>th</sup> release by Moriah Films, the documentary filmmaking division of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, of which Rabbi Marvin Hier is the Dean and Founder.

In 2012, Rabbi Hier, once again co-wrote and produced ***It Is No Dream*** with director Richard Trank, exploring the life and times of Theodor Herzl, father of the modern State of Israel. Narrated by Academy Award winner Sir Ben Kingsley and starring Academy Award winner Christoph Waltz as the voice of Theodor Herzl, the film examines how Herzl, a well-known journalist and playwright, an assimilated, Budapest-born Jew, horrified by the Dreyfus trial in Paris and the anti-Semitism he saw spreading across Europe, took upon himself the task of attempting to create a Jewish homeland in Palestine against all odds. Over the span of eight years, Herzl organized and led a worldwide political movement that, within fifty years, led to the establishment of the State of Israel. The film follows Herzl as he meets with Kings, Prime Ministers, Ambassadors, a Sultan, a Pope and government ministers from Constantinople to St. Petersburg, from Paris to Berlin, from Vienna to Vilna in his quest to build a Jewish nation.

In 2011, Rabbi Hier, once again collaborating with director Trank, co-wrote and produced ***Winston Churchill: Walking With Destiny***. Narrated by Academy Award-winning actor Sir Ben Kingsley, the documentary focused on Winston Churchill's years in the political wilderness, his early opposition to Adolf Hitler and Nazism, and his return to government as Prime Minister in May 1940 by the demand of the British people. Sir Martin Gilbert, historical consultant for the film and Winston Churchill's official biographer, theorizes that Western Civilization as we know it was saved by Churchill during the period when he, alone among the world's leaders, stood up to Hitler and Nazism. He adds that had Churchill's warnings about Nazi Germany's racial policies towards Jews been heeded in the early 1930's, the Holocaust would never have

“The Prime Ministers: Soldiers and Peacemakers”



occurred. As historian John Lukacs explains in the film, Winston Churchill did not win the war in 1940. The war was won once the Americans and the Soviets entered the battle in 1941. But Lukacs points out that in 1940, the war could have been lost if it was not for Churchill. Among those featured in the film are Winston S. Churchill (his grandson and namesake), Celia Sandys (one of his granddaughters), best-selling author and historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, singer and actress Dame Vera Lynn and many eyewitnesses who survived the Battle of Britain. Featuring rare stills and archival film footage, the documentary also includes newly filmed sequences at Churchill's country home, Chartwell, the War Cabinet Rooms, the Parliament, Dunkirk, among other locations. ***Winston Churchill: Walking With Destiny*** played in film festivals around the world and was one of the highest grossing theatrical documentaries of 2011.

In 2009, ***Against The Tide***, which he co-wrote with its director Richard Trank, was released by Moriah Films. Narrated by Academy Award-winning actor Dustin Hoffman, ***Against The Tide*** examined the conflict that erupted in the American Jewish community in the late 1930's and 40's over the best means to rescue the Jews of Europe during the Holocaust. It told the little-known story of Peter Bergson, who stood up against the American Jewish leadership and the Roosevelt Administration in his tireless efforts to save the Jews of Europe. The documentary also looked at how European Jews desperately tried to get the word to the outside world about what was happening to them to no avail. Shot on location in England, Germany and Israel and featuring a never before seen interview with Bergson filmed by Claude Lanzmann (***Shoah***), the film also included an original score composed and conducted by Emmy and Grammy Award winner Lee Holdridge.

In 2007, Rabbi Marvin Hier co-wrote and was one of the producers of ***I Have Never Forgotten You***, a comprehensive look at the life and legacy of Simon Wiesenthal, the famed Nazi hunter and humanitarian who died in 2005. Narrated by Academy Award-winning actress Nicole Kidman, it debuted as a special selection at the 2007 Berlin Film Festival and had its North American premiere at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival where it was one of the top ten films in the voting for the Audience Award. The winner of the Audience Award at the 2007 Cinevegas Film Festival, ***I Have Never Forgotten You*** was a selection of the LA Film Festival, the Seattle International Film Festival, The Jerusalem International Film Festival and the Viennale. Shot on location in Austria, England, Germany, Italy, Poland, Switzerland, the Ukraine and the US and featuring previously unseen archival film and photos, ***I Have Never Forgotten You*** also includes interviews with longtime Wiesenthal associates, government leaders from around the world, friends and family members. Wiesenthal's only child, Pauline, appears in the film giving her very first interview about her mother and father and their almost seventy year relationship.

In 2006, he co-wrote and produced (along with Richard Trank) ***Ever Again***, which examines the resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe and its connection to international terrorism. ***Ever Again*** is narrated by Kevin Costner and was released in the US by Rocky Mountain Films in December 2006. In early 2005, Rabbi Hier and Trank completed production on ***Beautiful Music***, the first short subject documentary produced by Moriah Films and the winner of the 2005 Hollywood Film Festival for Best Documentary. Narrated by Brooke Shields, ***Beautiful Music*** tells the

emotional story of the relationship between an Orthodox Jewish music teacher and her blind and autistic Palestinian student. In 2004, Rabbi Hier and Trank teamed up again to write and produce *Unlikely Heroes*, narrated by Sir Ben Kingsley, chronicling seven extraordinary people who either resisted or defied the Nazis during the Holocaust. In 2001, Rabbi Hier co-wrote and produced (again with Trank) *In Search of Peace, Part One: 1948-1967*, an exploration of the first decades of Israel's existence.

As founder of Moriah Films, Rabbi Hier has been the recipient of two Academy Awards® - in 1997 as co-producer of *The Long Way Home*, directed by Mark Jonathan Harris, and in 1981, as co-producer and co-writer for *Genocide*, directed by Arnold Schwartzman (with whom he shared Oscar honors that year).

In 1977, Rabbi Hier came to Los Angeles to create the Simon Wiesenthal Center, named in honor of famed Nazi hunter, Simon Wiesenthal. Under his leadership, the Center has become one of the foremost Jewish human rights agencies in the world, with a constituency of more than 400,000 families, and offices throughout the United States, in Canada, Europe, Israel and Argentina.

The Center's educational arm, the *Museum of Tolerance*, opened in February 1993 to worldwide acclaim. Founded to challenge visitors to confront bigotry and racism and to understand the Holocaust in both historic and contemporary contexts, the Museum hosts over a half million visitors a year, including 110,000 students. Because of the success of its diversity training programs, a New York Tolerance Center opened in Manhattan in February 2004. The Wiesenthal Center is also in the process of creating the *Center for Human Dignity-Museum of Tolerance Jerusalem*, a 400,000 square foot site located in the heart of the city, designed by renowned architect Frank O. Gehry.

In 1992 and again in 2003, Rabbi Hier keynoted historic conferences on anti-Semitism and the struggle for tolerance which were co-sponsored by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and the Simon Wiesenthal Center, convened at UNESCO's international headquarters in Paris. In December 2003, Rabbi Hier met at the Vatican with Pope John Paul II. At the private audience, he discussed the worldwide threat of anti-Semitism and terrorism and the Center's campaign to make suicide bombing a crime against humanity. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, his dialogue with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl led to a critical debate on German reunification and the need for "deutsche memory."

Under his direction, the Center has served as consultant to Steven Spielberg's epic *Schindler's List* and ABC Television's miniseries adaptation of Herman Wouk's novel *War and Remembrance*, among others. He is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Rabbi Hier is the recipient of an honorary degree and many awards. Among them, he received an honorary Doctorate from Yeshiva University (2004) and was awarded the *Chevalier dans l'Ordre National du Merite* by French President Francois Mitterrand (1993).

**Main Credits:**

Starring  
MICHAEL DOUGLAS  
as the voice of Yitzhak Rabin

CHRISTOPH WALTZ  
as the voice of Menachem Begin

NICOLA PELTZ  
As the voice of Esther Cailingold

Directed by  
RICHARD TRANK

Produced by  
RABBI MARVIN HIER & RICHARD TRANK

Screenplay by  
RICHARD TRANK  
Based on "The Prime Ministers" by Yehuda Avner  
With New Material Written by  
RICHARD TRANK & RABBI MARVIN HIER

Edited by  
NIMROD EREZ

Director of Photography  
JEFFREY VICTOR

Original Music Composed and Conducted By  
LEE HOLDRIDGE

Co-Producer  
KATRIN OSMIALOWSKI  
NIMROD EREZ

Sound Design  
MARK FRIEDMAN  
TIM BOLAND

Associate Producers  
JASON SPIRA-BAUER  
AVIVA C. WEINSTEIN