

Tears of Gaza

Gazas tårer

Directed by Vibeke Løkkeberg



"My hope is that this film will arouse the feelings of protest among audiences, and inspire people to join in the quest to stop the seemingly endless struggle against poverty, suffering and war." Vibeke Løkkeberg

WORLD PREMIERE AT TORONTO FILM FESTIVAL 2010

Screening times:

Sept. 10th, 09:45 AM Scotiabank Theatre 6 **P&I**

Sept. 12th, 09:45 PM Scotiabank Theatre 4

Sept. 15th, 07:30 PM Scotiabank Theatre 2 **P&I**

Sept. 14th, 09:30 AM Varsity 7

Sept. 19th, 12:30 PM AMC 3

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Disturbing, powerful and emotionally devastating, *Tears of Gaza* is less a conventional documentary than a record – presented with minimal gloss – of the 2008 to 2009 bombing of Gaza by the Israeli military. Photographed by several Palestinian cameramen both during and after the offensive, this powerful film by director Vibeke Løkkeberg focuses on the impact of the attacks on the civilian population.

Tears of Gaza follows three children through the war and the period after the ceasefire. Løkkeberg delivers an horrific, first-hand glimpse into the nightmare of war. With raw footage from the front lines, the film exposes not only the cruelty of battle, but also the brutal consequences to women and children, forced to handle their everyday life after a dramatic war experience. Many of them live in tents or in ruins without walls or roofs, and are in dire need of money, food, water and electricity. Others have lost family members, or are left with seriously injured children. Can war solve conflicts or create peace?

“*Tears of Gaza* demands that we examine the costs of war on a civilian populace. The result is horrifying, gut-wrenching and unforgettable,” said Steve Gravestock, TIFF Programmer.



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Biography

Vibeke Løkkeberg, Director

Løkkeberg was born in Norway. She is an actor, director, screenwriter and author, and has become one of Norway's most well-known personalities and leading feminist artists. Løkkeberg started out as fashion model in Rome, Copenhagen, Paris and London in early 1960s. She has directed several features, including *The Revelation* (77), *Betrayal* (81), *Hud* (86), which screened in the Un Certain Regard section at the Cannes Film Festival, *Måker* (91), and *Der gudene er døde* (93). Løkkeberg's *Tears of Gaza* is the filmmaker's first foray into documentary film. Løkkeberg contrasts factual footage with fictional re-enactments to create a unique cinematic experience in hopes of elevating the viewer's emotional connection to the subjects in the film and spurring protest.

"There are major obstructions inherent in the presentation. The cinema theatres constitute a fantastic arena for communication which to a great extent has been taken over by the entertainment industry."

Director's Statement

Witnessing the maiming and killing of children in a war, without being able to do anything about it, is a great challenge. The short glimpses of children's faces displayed on my TV set, after they had lived through the war was my motivation for making *Tears of Gaza*. A protest against all wars grew inside me. Wars are senseless, destructive, unworthy of mankind. Wars are never a solution to bilateral problems in the long run.

In my films, I have always been concerned with the fate of the victims. In the Gaza-Israel conflict, there are presumably two victimized parties. A responsibility which both the USA and Europe will have to shoulder. My hope is that this film will arouse the same feelings of protest among the audiences, and that it will bring inspiration to continue the seemingly endless struggle against poverty, suffering and war. In the film, I quote a father who sits with his phosphorous injured child: "What God do these people believe in, who can do this against children? And how can I gather the strength to forgive?" This film has been a year in the making, and it's a pleasure to let its world premiere take place in Toronto.

Vibeke Løkkeberg - Timeline

Born 1945 in Bergen Norway

Two children - Tonje born 1975 and Marie born 1982

Married to Terje Kristiansen who also works as her producer.

Made a concept out of being a mother and making films with the family.

Løkkeberg has become one of Norway's most well-known personalities and leading feminist artists as actor, director, screenwriter and author. Løkkeberg started out as fashion model in Rome, Copenhagen, Paris and London in early 1960s.

- 1966 Co-writer and star of the feature film **Liv** which introduced the new film style to Norway, selected for the Berlin Film Festival.
- 1970 Co-writer and lead in the feature **Exit**. Selected for DIRECTOR'S FORTNIGHT in Cannes. Løkkeberg went to London and Rome. Rejected a role in Fellinis Satyricon, went home and started her individual career. Started to make controversial short films on women topics
"Abortion", fighting the right of free abortion.
- 1971 "The child should have father" about children born outside marriage
- 1972 "Tater" About suppressed minorities in Norway
- 1973-75 Various short films for NRK (the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation)
- 1975 "Rain" first short feature as writer, director and star
- 1976 "Revelation" her first full-length feature as director, writer, star and producer. The film looked at the destiny of women over 50 and created enormous debate for months in Norway. Selected for a. o. the Berlin Film Festival and the London Film Festival. Received an Award at the San Remo Festival.
- 1981 "Løperjenten" (The story of Camilla) full-length feature.
Selected for the SEMAINE DE LA CRITIQUE in Cannes 1983, selected as Norway's entry for
The Foreign Language Academy Award, received the Norwegian Critic's Award.
"Løperjenten" was the first Norwegian film to be distributed in US and was screened at festivals all over the world. By some US critics regarded as one of the ten best films of the year. On Unescos heritagelist.
- 1985 "Hud" (Skin) with actors from Norway, Sweden and England (Terence Stamp, Niclas Grace and Patricia Hodge). Selected for UN CERTAIN REGARD in Cannes, and became a "famous scandal" as a film that debated incest in the most impressive sceneries of west coast Norway.
- 1989 Made her debut as a an author with the novel Leoparden (The Leopard)
- 1991 Måker (Seagulls) – full-length feature
- 1992 Through Ashes – a full-length feature from the war on Balkans shot during the war
- 1994 Published the novel Jordens skygge (In the Shadow of the Earth)
- 2002 Published the novel Purpur (about Val d'Orcia and Pope Pius 2)
- 2004 Published the novel Letter to Heaven (about the suppression of Indians in South America)
- 2005 Appointed Cavaliere by the president of Italy
- 2008 Published the novel Allied (about the bombing of a small community on the west coast of Norway during WWII)
- 2010 Gazas tårer (Tears of Gaza)

Publicity – Toronto International Film Festival

Toronto Publicist: CLUTCH PR

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PRODUCTION INFORMATION

TEARS OF GAZAS (Gazas tårer)

Running time: 82 min. Formats: HD, HDSR, DCP, 35 mm

Dir: Vibeke Løkkeberg

Producer: Terje Kristiansen for Nero Media AS

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Terror on the streets of Gaza



Vibeke Løkkeberg, Director