

# **THREE DAYS IN BANGUI**

**A NEW ISRAELI FEATURE FILM**



**DIRECTOR: YOSSI MADMONY**

**SCREENWRITER: YOAV HALEVY**

**PRODUCERS: SHEMI SHEINFELD, YOAV HALEVY**

**PRODUCTION COMPANIES: COMEBACK FILMS, OPEN DOORS FILMS**

# Three Days in Bangui

## Inspired by a True Story

### Synopsis

The dramatic encounter between Israeli reporter Adam Baruch and Israeli General Shmuel "Gorodish" Gonen in the jungles of the Central African Republic. "Gorodish" had gone into voluntary exile in Africa after being blamed for Israel's military failures in the Yom Kippur War, turning him overnight from a national hero to a reviled man.

\*\*\*\*\*

1987. Adam Baruch, a senior editor at the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Aharonot, decides to travel to Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, in order to write the article of a lifetime, interviewing Israeli General Shmuel "Gorodish" Gonen, his own childhood hero. "Gorodish" believes that the accusations against him, after the Yom Kippur War, were politically motivated and that the establishment decided to use him as a scapegoat in order to satisfy the public thirst to identify culprits responsible for the failure of the war.

In a packed three-day visit to the chaotic city of Bangui, in the jungle, and in an abandoned diamond mine far from human settlement, Adam finds "Gorodish". The former general is now a slightly modified version of Colonel Kutz from *Apocalypse Now*: broken, abandoned and alone. Gorodish hopes to find diamonds in order to finance his return to Israel, fight for his innocence, and avenge the injustice he has suffered. In reality, though, he is heavily in debt, bitter, and driven by an irrational lust for revenge. He moves mountains and rivers in his fight, but all the time he is slowly dying in his own bitter, supernatural world, godforsaken and friendless. He is not a businessman and knows nothing about diamonds. War is his expertise. Adam struggles to understand the conflicted soul of his former hero and a man who served as a role model for generations of young Israelis. They spend three days together on a journey that initially has the character of a duel, and later becomes an encounter between two men who deconstruct their self-images. The story reaches its climax by the banks of the river that surrounds the diamond mine. Gorodish experiences a feverish flashback of the crossing of the Suez Canal in 1973, when he sank along with his soldiers. Far away from their home in Israel, the two men expose the character of Israeli society, which exploits its heroes and ultimately abandons them on the battlefield of life.

**The script was developed with the support of the Israel Film Fund**

**The film producing with the support of the Israel Film Fund and the Geshar Multicultural Film Fund.**



## Three Days in Bangui

### Screenwriter's Note:

This dramatic meeting, and some would say the iconic one, of Adam Baruch and Shmuel "Gorodish" Gonen, in Africa, go along with me from 1987, a year when I was a film student, in which I was exposed to an article written and published by Adam Baruch in Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper. A tragic Israeli story (in the classical sense), which tells the rise and fall of a admired commander, who carried by the hands of the people ,in this case - the Israeli, who became later a victim by the same system that created him, thrown out and exiled mentally and physically, to a place he is trying to get back from but without success.

Throughout his life, the journalist Adam Baruch has been trying to crack the figure of Gorodish, seeing him as a "source" for understanding himself and many others. "Wars define the history of the State of Israel, whose date of birth is the date of the war," Adam wrote in the opening of his article on Gorodish, and Gorodish carried with him the two wars that changed the face of Israeliness - the Six Day War and the Yom Kippur War. The war of victory and the war of the great failure. When I decided to write this script I discovered that Adam Baruch kept the recordings of the meeting with Gorodish throughout his life, which were never published. The recordings that are a powerful document that made me tremble, revived the two's iconic meeting as if it were happening here in my room, became a revolutionary event for me as well. Now I know "how deep is the human wound ... how cruel is man ... how bad is being a victim ...how longing is there in exile ... how deep is a person's need ... Beyond images and masks... to be himself... to get a blessing". These words Adam Baruch is saying to Gorodish in the script. I want the audience will know and understand it too.

## Three Days in Bangui

**Budget: \$ 1,300,000**

**Shooting in: Africa, Israel, France**

**Language: Hebrew, English, French, Sango**

**Stage: Pre Production/ Financing**

**Production Companies: Come Back Films , Open Doors Films**



## Three Days in Bangui

**Producer: Shemi Shoenfeld**

**Short CV:**

2020/21 – **CHILDRENS OF NOBODY**. Dir. Erez Tadmor

Feature film.

2018/19 – **THE ART OF WAITING** .Dir. Erez Tadmor,

Feature film.

2017 – **SIRENS** . Directed and written by: Erez Tadmor.

Short Film

2016/17 – **EMPTY ROOM**. Dir. Shirly Berkovitz. For Yes.

Documentary Film.

2015 **WOUNDED LAND**. Dir. Erez Tadmor.

Feature film.

2015 – **MATI CASPI – CONFESSION**, . Dir. Dalia Mevorach, Dany Dotan

Documentary for TV

2014 – **DEAR GOD**, . Dir. Erez Tadmor

Short Film. Finalist at the ASFF a BAFTA recognized.

2014 - **MAGIC MEN**, Dir. Erez Tadmor & Guy Nativ

Feature film.

2011- 2012 - **HOLY BLOOD.**

Documentary series for channel 10 Israel.

2008/09 - **EXODUS THE TRUE STORY.**

Documentary feature film. Channel 1 Israel.

2006 - **CHAT AND PUNISHMENT.**

Documentary Film. Channel 1 Israel.

**MASHKANTA.**

T.V Drama. Channel 2 Israel.

2005 - **SALT OF THE EARTH.**

Feature film.

2003 - **MISSION 107.**

Documentary. Channel 12 Israel.

**1998 – 2000 - TIRONOT.** (Basic training)

27 episodes T.V series for channel 2 Israel.

Member of the EFA, the Israel Film Television Producers Association & the Israeli documentary Filmmakers Forum.

# Three Days in Bangui

## Producer & Screenwriter: Yoav Halevy

### Short CV:

#### Education:

2015-19 - Studies Master Degree, Cultural Studies, The Open University of Israel

2007-8 - Studies Master Degree, Multidisciplinary Program in the Arts, Tel Aviv University

1990 - Graduating Cinema & Television, Tel Aviv University (BFA)

2006-2020 – Head of Production Department, Film Department, "HAMIDRASH" - Faculty of Arts, Beit Berl College, Israel

2021 - Head of Film Department (Substitute) "HAMIDRASH" – Faculty of Arts, Beit Berl College, Israel

1996-2021 – Head of Film Production Company - Open Doors Films, Israel.

[www.opendoorsfilms.com](http://www.opendoorsfilms.com)

#### Selected Works -

#### **2013 – "BURAEU 06" / 58 min / Director, Producer, Screenwriter**

Documentary Film

Memorable mention – Artistic Achievement, Jerusalem Int. Film Festival, 2013

#### **2010 – IN THE THIRD PERSON / 70 min. / Producer.** Directors: Artur Yacobov & Sharon Attias.

Documentary Film.

Winner - Best Documentary Film, Haifa Int. FF, 2010

#### **2007 – DEAR MR. WALDMAN/ 90 min / Producer.** Director: Hanan Peled.

Feature Film.

2007 Palm Springs Int. Film Festival, 2007 Munich Int. Film Festival.

#### **2002 - GOD'S SANDBOX / 85 min / Producer, Screenwriter.** Directed: Doron Eran

Feature Film

2002 Karlovy-Vary Int. Film Festival, 2002 Manchester Int. Film Festival,

(Winner – Best Film, Best Director & Best Screenplay)



**1999 - IT WILL END WITH A CRY (2 X 50 min) / Screenwriter** . Director: David Tur  
TV Miniseries

**1998 - ABSOLUTE JUSTICE/ 85 min / Screenwriter.** Director: Arnon Zadok  
Feature Film

**1996 - WHITE NIGHT / 85 min / Screenwriter.** Director: Arnon Zadok.  
(Layla Lavan).  
Feature Film  
Winner YOUNG CINEMA AWARD - CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 1997

**1990 - ANOTHER BED ANOTHER MORNING / 16 min / Director / producer / Screenwriter**  
Short Film.

# Three Days in Bangui

## FROM THE SCRIPT

### 43. INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Lunch at a French restaurant. The very picture of colonialism. Adam looks around. A hardworking woman, her beauty artificial, serves them local fruit juice and an enormous fish as the main course. Bill feeds his whore with a spoon. He's completely drunk. He and the girl share a laugh. Gorodish and Michal are busy with their respective fish. Adam isn't eating. He watches Gorodish eat.

ADAM (V.O.)

The colonial exploitation continues...

There is no trash in Bangui...

anything that moves gets eaten.

They eat the locusts, they eat the butterflies.

A sick pet becomes prey...

GORODISH

You're not hungry, Adam?

ADAM

No.

Adam finds an opportunity to talk to Gorodish while Bill is preoccupied.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Shmuel. Could it be you don't  
want to go back?

GORODISH

You know what they say in the Gemara...  
How do you check if a chicken is kosher or not?  
You put it in the river...  
If it swims against the stream,  
it's kosher. If it gets swept away, it's not...  
"I'm a kosher chicken."

Adam laughs.

GORODISH (CONT'D)

I'll go back. But to do that,  
I have to break first.

ADAM

Speaking of the chicken and the Gemara,  
there's a saying that goes...  
"If it's like an egg, it's worse than an egg"...  
Anything that's whole, authentic,  
is better than its substitutes...  
Aren't you going crazy here, Shmuel?

GORODISH

Anyone else would've gone crazy or  
killed himself, but not me...  
I had one point five million dollars,  
lost it all... I'm on my last breath...  
650 grand in debt, and I don't see how  
I'm going to cover it... That's why I've  
got my American partners here,  
to take on the mine for the debt...

Gorodish nods in Bill's direction. Bill is drunk, smiling. He has no idea what they're talking about.

ADAM

And when you had one point  
five million dollars? Why didn't you  
go back then?

GORODISH

I wanted to double it...

ADAM

Excuse me?

GORODISH

Next time... Eat up, Adam.

Adam turns back to his fish, starts picking at it. Each man is lost in his own thoughts. Adam eats reluctantly. Bill is all over the girl, drunk. Her laugh betrays an inner strength. She knows what she's doing.

ADAM (V.O.)

Nine years, he's been here.  
I think of an older brother led  
astray by life, a perversion,  
a gene gone wild in the system..

**86. INT. GORODISH HUT - A FEW MINUTES LATER**

Adam gets inside the door of the hut, stands up. Samuel is sitting on the field bed. He looked exhausted, withered. The tape is closed. Twilight light surrounds the camp

GORODISH

Adam...where you go?

(Pause)

You know ... all of a sudden, I'm discovering  
a 9 year old hole ... I was not aware that I've been  
here 9 years, they passed me by quickly

ADAM

Because of me?...

GORODISH

... you force me to go inside ... press me on your  
questions ... and I'm trying to find, look  
inside myself to see what I'm doing here? Me ...  
Where will I get fuel? How do I make the tilt?  
How do you get out of debt? And suddenly I think  
of other things ...

ADAM

...Shmuel? ... I'm going back to Tel Aviv on Saturday ...  
with which Shmuel am I going back to?

GORODISH

The same one who was ... only in trouble ...not in mental trouble  
... I'm sane ... I see things today differently, less sharp, less bitter,  
I see these Histories ... and how it happens ...  
more objective evidence

ADAM

And it tells you what?

GORODISH

...I'll tell you, and I'll try to answer, because  
I did not prepare for this question ... If we take  
the last 20 years, and I was 37 years old ...  
I was a military man .... I was Jewish, Zionist  
and believed in people ... I think I remained  
a Jew and a Zionist and believe in God ...  
I no longer believe in people. That's what  
happened to me ... and I do not like that change.

Adam looks at Gorodish. He's broken. Authentic.

ADAM

In what sense, Samuel... ?

GORODISH

In the sense ... that ... people ... that ...  
man created evil from his youth. People in a moment  
of crisis leave you alone ... even people you built,  
who spent years to shape their personalities...  
I felt like that ... that once you are thrown off  
the platform the wolves are hunters ... and they are  
among the wolves ... pushed me ... thrown ... and there  
is a train going in the woods and they push me  
and I can not hold on

ADAM

And what are the people left on the platform doing?  
Looking into your eyes?

GORODISH

Keep going ... it was, I think, the biggest crisis  
I went through ... I went through a lot but it ...  
it amazed me ... as soon as you fell ...  
you're alone, a wounded wolf, Under attack...  
you understand?... and I am now looking for my way alone ...  
I want to get back to it ...  
and I am now ... in...

ADAM

Talk to me in the images

GORODISH

What do you want from me, Adam? ...  
I'm not an image, do you not see?

ADAM

I see

GORODISH

...Yes? ... What do you see... ?

ADAM

What do I see?...I see ... how deep is the human wound ...  
how cruel is man ... how bad is being a victim ...  
how longing is there in exile ... how deep is  
a person's need ... Beyond images and masks...  
to be himself...  
(Whispers)  
...to get a blessing

GORODISH

(looks at Adam)

From whom, Adam?... Yesterday it happened to me  
Tomorrow it will happen to you

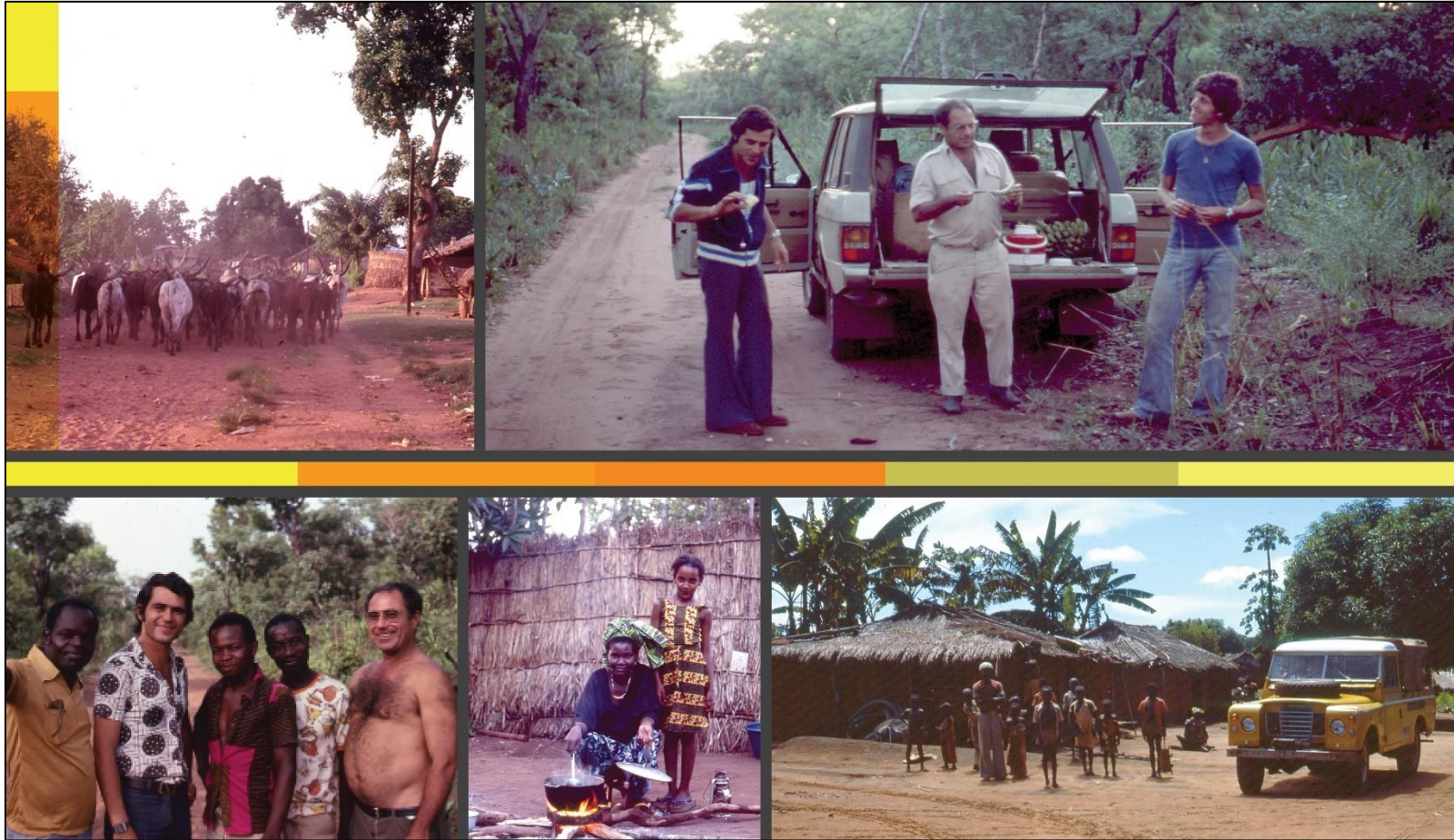
Adam is standing in front of Gorodish. It's not easy for him.

ADAM

Samuel, you need to rest

Gorodish is silent. The evening went down. Adam goes out. Gorodish does not look away, within himself. He is broken.

Three Days in Bangui  
Visual research



GORODISH / THE ROAD TO THE CAMP IN THE JUNGLE



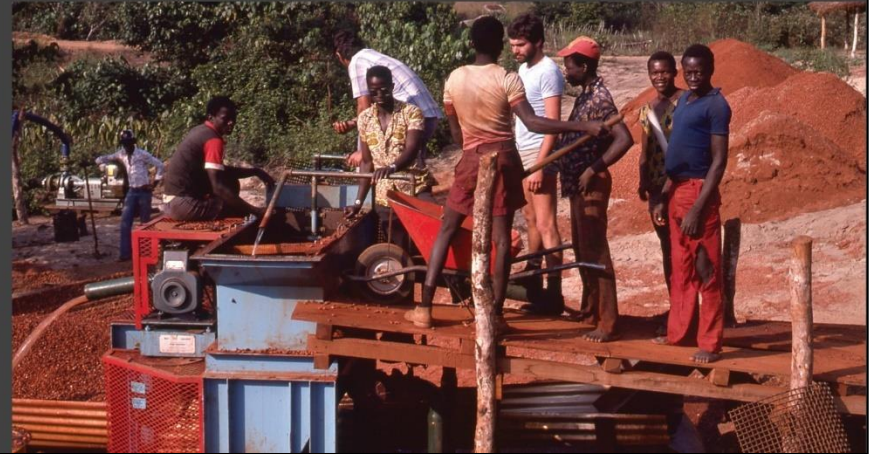
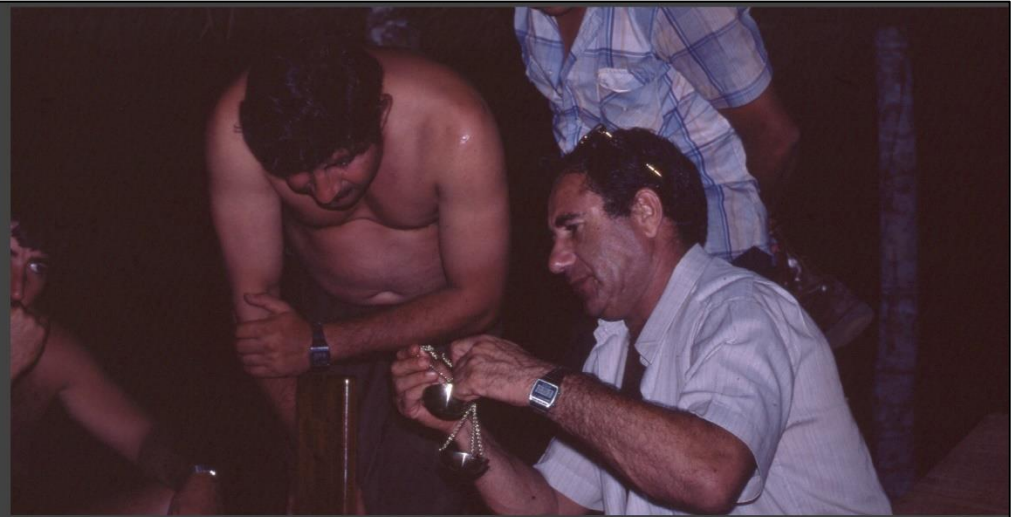
**THE JUNGLE**  
**Three Days in Bangui**  
**Visual research**



**THE CAMP IN THE JUNGLE**

# Three Days in Bangui

## Visual research



# GORODISH / THE DIAMOND MINE IN THE JUNGLE

Three Days in Bangui

## Visual research

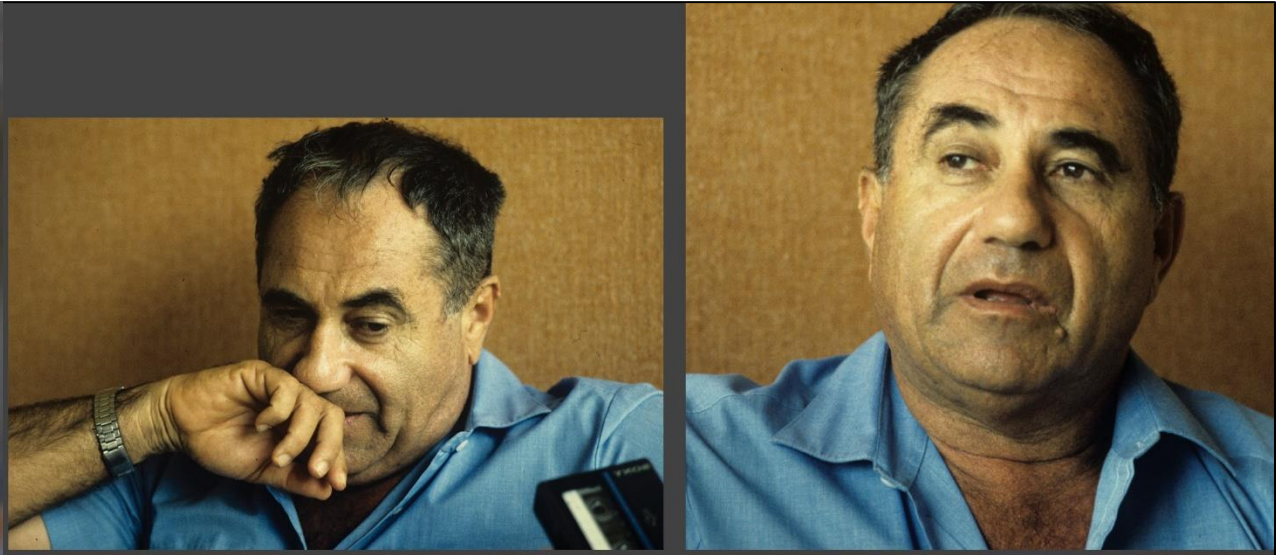


THE RIVER

**Three Days in Bangui**  
**Visual research**



**ADAM BARUCH**



**GORODISH**

## **Three Days in Bangui**

**For more information:**

### **Come Back Films**

Shemi Shoenfeld

Tel: +972-50-5478927

[comebackf@gmail.com](mailto:comebackf@gmail.com)

### **Open Doors Films**

Yoav Halevy

Tel: +972- 50-7296949

[opendoorsfilms@gmail.com](mailto:opendoorsfilms@gmail.com)

[www.opendoorsfilms.com](http://www.opendoorsfilms.com)