



## ZAYTOUN REVIEWS

A Selection of clippings from various reviews

HUFFPOST ARTS & CULTURE  
CANADA 

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### Eran Riklis' *Zaytoun*: A Much Needed Lesson in Peace at TIFF 2012

*Zaytoun* is -- and I quote Toronto Film Fest programmer Jane Schoettle who introduced Sunday's screening at the TIFF Bell Lightbox theater -- "a programmer's dream" come true. It seamlessly blends humanity with the brutality of war, while also bringing an unusually bright approach to its dark subject, the seemingly unsolvable Palestinian Israeli conflict.

Of course, a film cannot exist without a great script and it took first time screenwriter Nader Rizq nearly 20 years to realize his project. But with the help of visionary producers Gareth Unwin (whose Bedlam Productions brought audiences Oscar winner *The King's Speech*) and Fred Ritzenberg, Rizq explores a world where our need for survival finally outwits our need for control. And the fact that a film based on a story by a Palestinian writer has been selected for the upcoming [UK Jewish Film Festival](#) in November says it all.

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**SCREEN**DAILY

The film's positive message and engaging performances should win it much wider exposure on the Festival circuit with some theatrical potential for specialist distributors.



There are some beautiful moments in "Zaytoun," thanks to the Israeli locales, and a willingness to be poetic; Fahed, standing on the ruins of his parents house, arms outstretched in the breeze, makes for an exquisite shot, and generates a sense of exhilaration and hope.

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**THE GLOBE AND MAIL** 

and even some humour characterize the long, precarious journey, set against a stunning desert landscape in this generous film that, to its credit, does not pretend the brief friendship is anything but a temporary truce.

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**THE  TIMES**

**Zaytoun brings Middle East enemies together**

Israel has a history of “mistakes, not admitting mistakes”, Riklis says. “But what I try to do is let you think and rethink before deciding if these guys are good or bad.” He thinks the best solution for the region is a two-state system, but Rizq insists that nothing will work until “people are treated equally. But what is the motivation for Israel to do that? It doesn’t make me angry; it’s more frustrating. What can you do that’s productive? Maybe this movie will make a difference.”