

Focus on Film

Azimuth

Drama
Israel

Tuesday, May 7, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m.

Director: Mike Burstyn, 2018 Israel

Running time: 97 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles

Azimuth, Mike Burstyn's, 71, debut film is about trust or lack of it. It picks up at the end of the Six-Day War in the Sinai, on the day after the cease fire is declared.

Moti, an Israeli soldier, trying to get help for his stranded comrades, encounters Rashid, an isolated Egyptian soldier, who knows nothing of the cease fire. They find themselves alone in two different levels of an abandoned building in the Sinai desert. Will they shoot each other? For both of them to survive requires some level of trust which seems impossible to achieve.

Flashbacks showing their lives with their young families before the war create sympathy for both.

Aside from vistas of the rocky desert landscape, the two actors occupy almost the entire length of the film. Enough tension is maintained to keep the viewer engaged. The final scene will stay with you for a long time.

Reviewed by William Handelman

THE LENORE MARWIL
DETROIT JEWISH
FILM FESTIVAL