



Heartland Film Society presents

The band's visit (2006)

Sept 4th and 5th 2009



Plot Eight Egyptian members of the Alexandria Ceremonial Police Orchestra arrive in Israel en route for an Arab cultural centre but find themselves in Bet Hatikva, a fictional town in the middle of the Negev Desert. They are stuck there with no bed for the night. But they find unexpected hospitality when the band members dine at a small restaurant and the owner, Dina (Ronit Elkabetz) offers makeshift accommodation. A challenging night follows for all.

What the critics said Andrew Pulver in the Guardian: 'A gentle, unpretentious comedy that posits a why-can't-we-just-get-along approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict....powered by excellent performances - just the right side of deadpan - and never gets remotely preachy. The Arabic-Hebrew credit roll gives you some idea of writer-director Kolirin's ambition'

Paul Arendt, BBC films review: 'Sasson Gabai [gives a] lovely performance as Tewfic, the rigidly traditional band leader whose formal facade gradually crumbles beneath the gaze of Ronit Alkabez's lonely Jewish restaurateur.... Tewfic's stoic acceptance of his farcical situation - completely lost in an unfriendly country and seriously overdressed to boot - gives the film a gently tragic dimension that contrasts nicely with the wry humour elsewhere. ...The Band's Visit is the kind of film that will appeal to patient viewers: charming, low-budget whimsy with a soupcon of political relevance. The music is lovely too.'

Awards The film received a plethora of awards and nominations including the Feature Film Award, Montreal Film Festival and the Jury Coup de Coeur at Cannes and the film review website Rotten Tomatoes gave it a golden tomato for best foreign film.

Length and certificate: 1 hr 29 mins, 12A **Language:** English, Hebrew, Arabic

Starring: Ronit Elkabetz, Saleh Bakri, Sasson Gabai, **Director:** Eran Kolirin

Next film: 1st & 2nd October, **Special People**

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www.heartlandfilmsociety.org.uk