

HOUSES

A film by Veronica Nicole Tetelbaum

Israel, Germany, 2025, 98 mins

PRESS NOTES

World premiere



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Press notes HOUSES @ Berlinale Forum
February 2025

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CONTACTS & SCREENING DATES

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SCREENING DATES @ BERLINALE

Sat, Feb 15 21:00 pm Arsenal 2 *Press screening*

Sun, Feb 16 17:30 pm Delphi Filmpalast World premiere

Repetition Screenings

Mon, Feb 17 12:30 pm

Cubix 8

Fri, Feb 21 19:00 pm

Arsenal 1

Sun, Feb 23 13:00 pm

Arsenal 1



SYNOPSIS

SHORT

Sasha is non-binary and came to Israel from the Soviet Union as a child in the 1990s. Haunted by memories, they visit the houses they used to live in. A quiet meditation in black and white on what it means to feel at home in a house, a body, and in time. (source: Berlinale Website)

LONG

"A house has no function if it is not lived in, the body has no value if you do not identify with it, the heart has no comfort if it has no love."

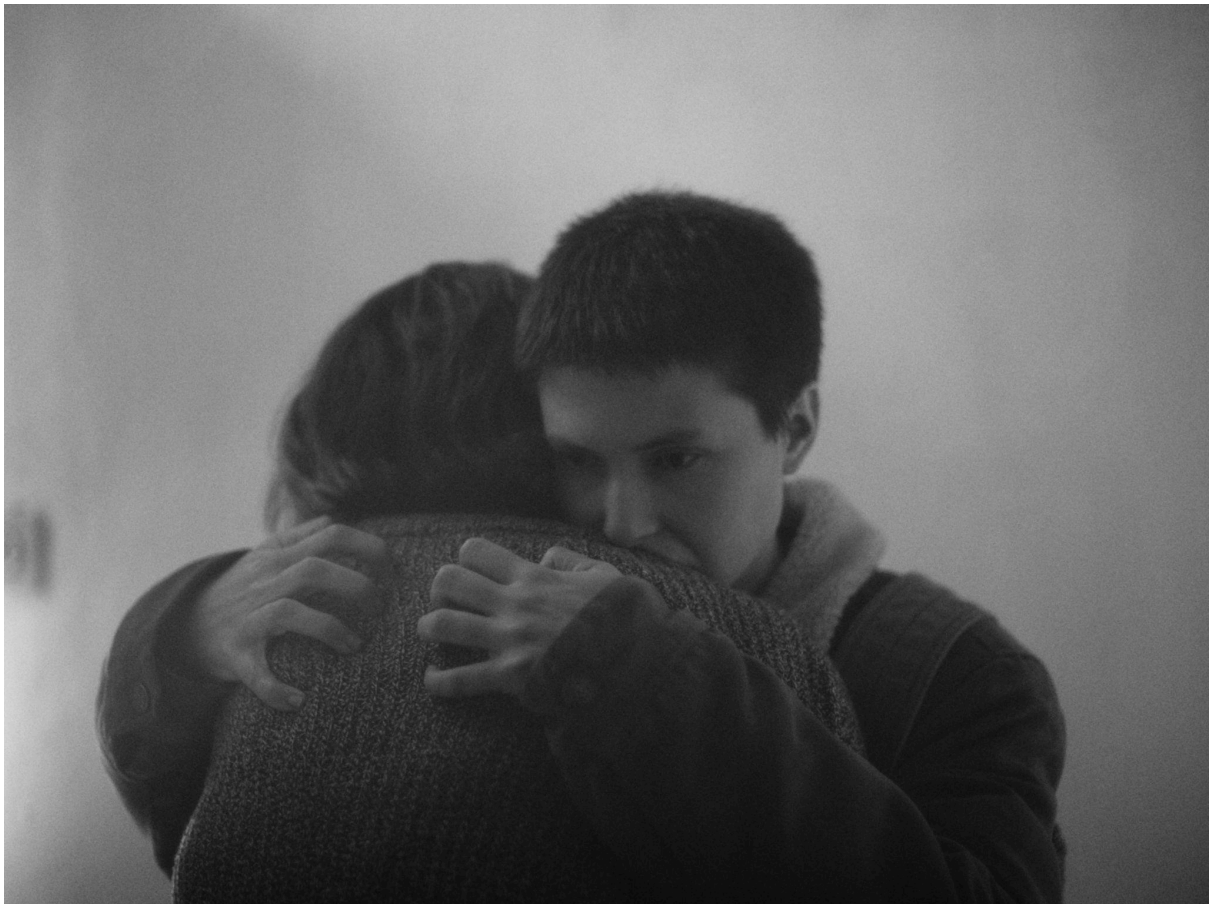
That is what Sasha writes in their notebook while embarking on a transformational journey through the houses of their childhood. At 28, now identifying as non-binary, Sasha relocated to Israel from the former Soviet Union with their family in 1990, back when two ponytails were still part of their look. Today, only a car and a notebook remain, and the search for understanding continues. By weaving together past and present, male and female, reality and fantasy, Sasha revisits former homes, pieces together memories, faces old traumas, and encounters both the good and the bad— all in pursuit of inner peace and self-acceptance.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The film *HOUSES* deals with our search for a true home inside us. It follows Sasha, a young woman who looks and feels more comfortable as a man, as he sets out on a journey of self-discovery, while grappling with his traumatic childhood memories of growing up in Samed. After emigrating to Israel from the former Soviet Union in the early '90s, my family settled in Samed, the city that now lies at the center of the film. We moved houses three times while there. Over the years, the urge to share my memories from this time has evolved. The experience of a rootless 6-year-old girl, the child of immigrants, not speaking the local language in a family that is busy building a life in a new country. These circumstances have formed me to become a person who, for most of my life, has looked back in an attempt to shed light on my formative memories.

Veronica Nicole Tetelbaum , January 2025



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Veronica Nicole Tetelbaum

Veronica Nicole Tetelbaum is a filmmaker, photographer, and actress. Born in Ukraine in 1984, she immigrated to Israel in 1990. She studied at the Lee Strasberg Theater and Film Institute in New York and later at the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School in Jerusalem.

Her short film *CONFESSION* won the Short Independent Film prize at the Cinema South Festival in 2019. As an actress, she appeared in films such as *KEDMA* by Amos Gitai and *ANDANTE* by Assaf Tager.

Tetelbaum's photography, which delves into themes of identity and memory, has been exhibited in various galleries, including *Waiting* at the Nolo Art Gallery in Tel Aviv in 2019. *HOUSES* marks her debut as a feature film director.



Filmography:

HOUSES (2025) - Feature
CONFESSION (2017) - Short
EVERY DAY (2015) - Short
WATER FISH (2014) - Short
WHO ARE YOU (2012) - Short

ABOUT THE ACTORS

Yael Eisenberg

Yael Eisenberg is an Israeli singer-songwriter, actress, and poet.

She began acting at age 11 and has appeared in numerous Israeli television series and films, including Samuel Maoz's *Foxtrot*. Eisenberg has a long-standing collaboration with director Veronica Nicole Tetelbaum, appearing in *Water Fish* (2014), *Every Day* (2015), and *Confession* (2017). *HOUSES* marks her first leading role in a feature film.

At 15, Eisenberg began playing guitar and writing songs. She released her debut album, *I Know This Is The End*, in 2017, followed by several singles and collaborations. Her second album, *All the Nights Turned to Days*, was released in 2022.

Eisenberg published her first poetry collection, *Sichot Im HaYalda* (Conversations with the Girl), in 2019. Her second poetry book is set for release in 2025.

Tali Sharon

Tali Sharon is an Israeli actress and acting teacher. She trained at the Yoram Lewinstein Acting Studio and holds a degree in Group Facilitation from Bar-Ilan University.

Sharon has played leading roles in Israeli cinema, appearing in films such as *Highway 65*, *Norman*, *Harmonia*, *She's Coming Home*, *Things Behind the Sun*, and *Out of Sight*. Her television credits include *Suspicion*, *Srugim*, *In Treatment*, *The X List*, and *Autonomies*. She won the Best Actress award at the Jerusalem Film Festival for her performance in *She's Coming Home*.

Beyond acting, Sharon manages and teaches at T.S. Acting Studio and serves as a faculty member in Tel Aviv University's Department of Film. She also co-leads *Winning Communication*, a business communication program, alongside Yaliv Bokobza.

Evgenia Dodina

Evgenia Dodina is an internationally acclaimed Israeli actress, widely regarded as one of the most prominent figures in Israeli theater and cinema. Born in 1964 in Minsk, Belarus (then part of the Soviet Union), Dodina studied at the Moscow State Academy of Art and performed at the prestigious Mayakovsky Theater. In 1990, she immigrated to Israel, where she joined the Gesher Theater and quickly became one of its leading and most celebrated actresses. At Gesher, she delivered standout performances in productions such as *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (as Ophelia), *The Dreyfus Trial* (as Miriam), and *Molière* (as Armande). Dodina has appeared in numerous films and television series, earning recognition for her compelling performances in *A Virgin in Kiryat Yam* (2018) and *Family* (2017). In 2020, she gained international exposure with a significant role in the third season of the British series *Killing Eve*. In 2023, she starred in the Israeli series *Sovietka*, produced by Kan 11, where she portrayed a central character.

ABOUT THE PRODUCERS

Elad Gavish (Marker Films)

Marker Films is an independent film and television production company based in Tel Aviv, led by Elad Gavish. Committed to developing and producing bold, innovative indie and commercial films, the company caters to Israeli and international markets.

Marker Films produced the award-winning drama *Princess*, directed by Tali Shalom Ezer and starring Shira Haas, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Other notable projects include the action-comedy *The Last Band in Lebanon*, one of Israel's highest-grossing comedies, and *Woman by Israella Shaer Meoded*.

Elad Gavish served as Executive Producer on Avi Nesher's critically acclaimed *Image of Victory*, the first Israeli film acquired by Netflix, and also produced Nesher's recent feature film, *The Monkey House*.

Adi Navon (Bona Productions)

BONA Productions is an independent film production company based in Tel Aviv, founded by emerging producer Adi Navon. A graduate of the School of Visual Arts in New York City, Navon is a versatile filmmaker with extensive experience across various production roles, from assistant director to line producer.

BONA produced the short film *Gila Who Walks Alone*, which premiered at the Krakow Film Festival, as well as the award-winning *Love Has Nothing to Do With It*, showcasing its strong presence on the global festival circuit. *Houses* marks BONA's debut feature film.

Anatol Schuster (Zwillingfilm)

Zwillingfilm produces bold, poetic, original films and was founded by filmmaker Anatol Schuster. His first production *MS STERN* received numerous awards and enthused both critics and audience. He wrote, directed and produced *CHAOS AND SILENCE*. The film won the Best Director Award at the A-Festival in Warsaw and will have its theatrical release in summer 2025. Veronica Nicole Tetelbaum's debut film *HOUSES* is his first international co-production.

CREDITS

Director & Script	Veronica Nicole Tetelbaum
Producers	Elad Gavish, Adi Navon, Anatol Schuster, Veronica Nicole Tetelbaum
Cast	Yael Eisenberg, Tali Sharon, Evgenia Dodina
Cinematography	Yaniv Linton
Editing	Avishai Sivan
Sound Design	Rotem Dror
Music	Rike Huy
Production	Marker Films (Israel), Bona Productions (Israel), Zwillingfilm (Germany)

The film was produced with the support of The Israel Film Fund, The Gesher Multicultural Film Fund, HessenFilm und Medien, Mifal Hapais, Women in the Picture Association

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