

Say goodbye with dignity; The two films "On this Happy Note" and "Greener Pastures" provide an excerpt of contemporary Israeli cinema

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Anat Gov sits in the armchair. She lights a cigarette. She smokes with pleasure. A smile scurries across her face. Joy and satisfaction are reflected in it. But behind everything there is no confidence: this woman, as the viewer already knows, has lost the fight against an illness. Anat Gov, the influential and versatile Israeli screenwriter and playwright, died of cancer in 2012. Inevitably, one wonders: How can someone appear so self-confident and resting in the face of death

Tamar Tal Anati's documentary "On this Happy Note" is an intimate portrait of the Israeli playwright Anat Gov, which accompanies her in the last conversations about her life and dealing with death. The film is one of two contributions that will be shown this year at the Jewish Culture Days in cooperation with the SERET Film Festival.

The second film, the comedy "Greener Pastures", is the contrast to "On this Happy Note": Here, a 75-year-old widower tries to escape the old people's home where he has to live. When he realizes that almost all the roommates of the nursing home use medical cannabis, he comes up with the crazy idea of dealing with it in order to be able to buy back his old house.

The fact that these two films were chosen for this year's Jewish Culture Days is explained by the claim of the SERET Film Festival, as co-founder Patty Hochmann explains in an interview: "The 'spirit' of the festival is to show life in Israel. It's about presenting Israel's multicultural diversity through the medium of film."

"Seret is Hebrew and means films," says Hochmann. With the festival, she wants to work to bring the richness and diversity of Israeli life and culture closer to the public. Today, SERET hosts five film festivals in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Chile and Argentina. In Germany, the festival will be held over 10 days and will show the entire spectrum of Israeli film art.

Joie de vivre until the last breath

"On this Happy Note" is not only in stark contrast to the light-footed comedy "Greener Pastures" by Assaf Abiri and Matan Guggenheim. With its differentiated view of death, the film fits into the programme of this year's Cultural Days. Because many people associate death with grief. In this film, director Tamar Tal Anati gives the viewer an honest and direct access to a dying person and to an intimate conversation that says a lot about the joys of life. In one of her last theatre works, Anat Gov showed how cold-blooded Anat Gov faced death as an author. In the play "Happy Ending" metastases dance in the hospital, there are laughter cramps on the oncological ward and love stories in the treatment room.

Israeli playwright Anat Gov succumbed to cancer in 2012. Seret FilmFestival (Jewish Culture Days, Das Bild may only be used with the written permission of Raufeld Medien GmbH. / Raufeld, Raufeld)