(San Francisco, CA) - In an impoverished Kentucky community, pastors encourage their congregants to donate to Israel in anticipation of Jesus’s impending return, perpetuating an unlikely bond between Evangelical Christians and Israeli Jews. Directed and produced by Emmy-winning filmmaker Maya Zinshtein and Academy award-winning producer John Battsek and Abraham (Abie) Troen, ’Til Kingdom Come examines this bond in a story of faith, power, and money.

’Til Kingdom Come will make its broadcast premiere on PBS’s Independent Lens on March 29, 2021 at 10 p.m. ET (check local listings) on PBS and will also be available to stream on the PBS Video app.

Prominent among the millions of American Evangelicals praying for the state of Israel is Pastor Boyd Bingham IV, one in a line of a dynasty of Kentucky pastors, and the congregants he leads in a small coal mining town. Firm in his conviction that his calling in life is to raise money for Israel, he and his congregants donate to Israel’s foremost philanthropic organization, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews. Their donations are fueled by the belief that Jews are crucial to Jesus’s return—a central issue that Zinshtein ultimately leaves the small Kentucky community to explore on a wider scale.

With unparalleled access, ’Til Kingdom Come unravels the global significance of American Christians’ dogma concerning Israel’s role in the Second Coming, traveling from rural Kentucky the halls of government in Washington, through the controversial moving of the American Embassy to Jerusalem under the Trump administration and the annexation plan of the West Bank. It exposes a stunning backstory of the Trump and Netanyahu administrations, where financial, political and messianic motivations intersect with the apocalyptic worldview that is fundamentally reshaping American foreign policy toward Israel and the Middle East.

“As Israeli filmmakers, we had a unique perspective on the subject of American Evangelicals’ deep links to the Jewish community and their influence on Israeli politics, which is something we felt hadn’t been discussed much in mainstream culture,” said Zinshtein. “With the access we had to explore both sides of this relationship, we wanted to open the door for more conversations...
about the connection between religion and politics and the motivations for American involvement overseas in places like Israel and elsewhere.”

’Til Kingdom Come made its premiere at Tel Aviv International Documentary Film Festival (Docaviv) and its U.S. premiere at the Chicago International Film Festival. It has also screened at DOC NYC, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), Denver Film Festival, and Double Exposure Film Festival.

Visit the ’Til Kingdom Come page on Independent Lens for more information about the film.

About the Filmmaker

Maya Zinshtein
Maya Zinshtein is an Israeli filmmaker and journalist who emigrated from Russia during her childhood and now lives in Tel Aviv. She holds a BA in Cinema and French studies, and an MA in Security and Diplomacy from Tel Aviv University. She directed the Emmy-winning film Forever Pure, which premiered on PBS’s Independent Lens, and has produced multiple documentaries, including Thieves by Law (by Alexander Gentelev, ARTE/ZDF), the inside story of Russian Mafia; and Operation Successor (By Alexander Gentelev, Channel 1, Israel), about the 2008 presidential elections in Russia. For years as an investigative journalist (Haaretz newspaper) she covered many of the ills of Israeli society and directed investigative stories for Israeli channels.

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ABOUT INDEPENDENT LENS
Independent Lens is an Emmy® Award-winning weekly series airing on PBS Monday nights at 10:00 PM. The acclaimed series, with Lois Vossen as executive producer, features documentaries united by the creative freedom, artistic achievement, and unflinching visions of independent filmmakers. Presented by ITVS, the series is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private corporation funded by the American people, with additional funding from PBS, Acton Family Giving, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Wyncote Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more visit pbs.org/independentlens. Join the conversation: facebook.com/independentlens and on Twitter @IndependentLens.

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