

A FILM BY ZAYA AND MAURIZIO BENAZZO

# WHERE OLIVE TREES WEEP

NOBODY'S FREE UNTIL WE ARE ALL FREE

FEATURING

DR. GABOR MATÉ, ASHIRA DARWISH, & AHED TAMIMI

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SCIENCE & NONDUALITY



Where Olive Trees Weep is a heartbreakingly beautiful and poignant new film about the struggles and resilience of [Ashira Darwish](#), [Ahed Tamimi](#), and other Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

It explores themes of loss, trauma, and the quest for justice. It features [Dr. Gabor Maté](#) offering trauma healing work for Palestinian women tortured in Israeli prisons.







## SYNOPSIS

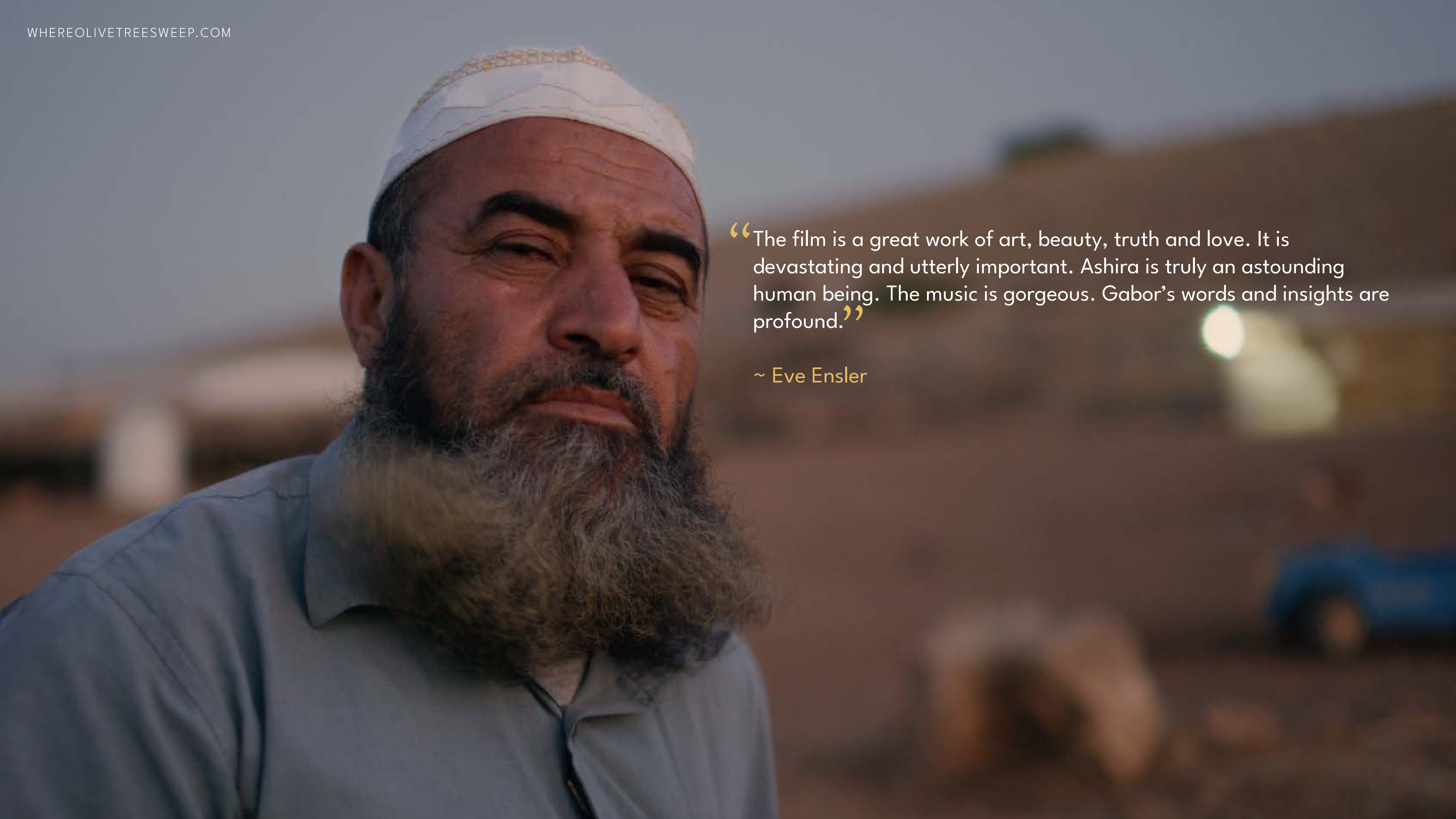
*Where Olive Trees Weep* offers a searing window into the struggles and resilience of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation. It explores themes of loss, trauma, and the quest for justice.

We follow, among others, Palestinian journalist and therapist Ashira Darwish, grassroots activist Ahed Tamimi, and Israeli journalist Amira Hass. We witness Dr. Gabor Maté offering trauma-healing work for a group of women who have been tortured in Israeli prisons.

Ancient landscapes bear deep scars, having witnessed the brutal reality of ancestral land confiscation, expulsions, imprisonment, home demolitions, water deprivation, and denial of basic human rights. Yet, through the veil of oppression, we catch a glimpse of resilience—deep roots that have carried the Palestinian people through decades of darkness and shattered lives.

This emotional journey bares the humanity of the oppressed while grappling with the question: what makes the oppressor so ruthlessly blind to its own cruelty?





“The film is a great work of art, beauty, truth and love. It is devastating and utterly important. Ashira is truly an astounding human being. The music is gorgeous. Gabor’s words and insights are profound.”

~ Eve Ensler





## ABOUT WHERE OLIVE TREES WEEP

The film gives background to the current crisis in Israel/Palestine and brings to light the lives of people we met on our 2022 journey in the occupied West Bank. Their universally human stories speak of intergenerational pain, trauma and resilience. We hope they touch your heart, stir compassion and understanding, and give rise to a pursuit for justice. For without justice, peace remains an empty slogan.

Cinema can be a powerful force for change. Our aim is, beyond mere education, to truly move hearts and minds and inspire audiences to echo the calls for

the calls for freedom, equality and dignity that have gone unanswered for far too long.

The film is our modest contribution towards our dream for an end to the occupation in Palestine, the attainment of equal rights and fair treatment for Palestinian people, and the spreading of healing for all intergenerational cycles of trauma in the region.





## DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

As filmmakers we believe in the power of cinema to shed light on the human condition, give voice to the voiceless, and inspire change.

After hearing the stories of pain and suffering and witnessing the brutality of occupation during our journey to the occupied West Bank in 2022, we were compelled to create “Where Olive Trees Weep.” Through the raw emotions and experiences of those living under occupation, such as Palestinian journalist Ashira Darwish, activist Ahed Tamimi, Israeli journalist Amira Hass, and the healing work of Dr. Gabor Maté, our film aims to shed light on the

light on the intergenerational trauma and urgent need for justice in the region.

By giving voice to those silenced by oppression and challenging preconceptions, we hope to foster understanding, inspire compassion, and contribute to the growing movement calling for an end to the occupation, the attainment of equal rights, and the spreading of healing for all those affected by this ongoing war. We hope that the film motivates many into action. May we embrace that there is no us vs. them – all life is sacred!





**FEATURING**

**Ashira Darwish**  
**Ahed Tamimi**  
**Dr. Gabor Maté**  
**Amira Haas**  
**Neta Golan**  
**Bassem Tamimi**  
**Narimam Tamimi**





### **Ashira Darwish**

Ashira Ali Darwish worked for 15 years as a TV & Radio journalist and researcher in Palestine for the BBC, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch. She is the founder of Catharsis Holistic Healing, a trauma therapy project pioneering a type of Sufi active meditation that draws its roots from ancestral and Indigenous knowledge.



### **Dr. Gabor Maté**

Dr. Maté is a Holocaust survivor, Order of Canada recipient, and is a Hungarian-Canadian physician known for his work on trauma, addiction, and childhood development. Once identified as a Zionist, he now openly criticizes Israel's ongoing occupation of Palestinian lands. He believes that acknowledging historical context is crucial to understand the current conflict and to move forward.



### **Ahed Tamini**

Ahed Tamini is a Palestinian activist, born and raised in the West Bank village of Nabi Saleh, which became a center of the resistance. At 16 years old, in 2017, she was filmed slapping an Israeli soldier, the video went viral, and Tamini was arrested and detained for seven months. The story of Tamini embodies the Palestinian experience under Israeli occupation.





## MEET THE TEAM

Producers Zaya & Maurizio Benazzo and Ashira Darwish have come together through Science & Nonduality to create **Where Olive Trees Weep**. Here you can meet the team and see the making of the film.

### **Zaya Benazzo**

Producer/ Director

### **Maurizio Benazzo**

Producer/ Director

### **Ashira Darwish**

Producer

### **Caroline Campbell**

Director of Cinematography





## MEET THE TEAM

**Armand Amar**  
Composer

**Nicholoz Kachibaia**  
Director of Cinematography B Unit

**Alexis Aurigemma**  
Post-Production Supervisor

**Jeanric Meller**  
Associate Producer

**Finely Macneil**  
Editor



ASHIRA DARWISH AHED TAMIMI DR. GABOR MATÉ

# WHERE OLIVE TREES WEEP

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WHERE OLIVE TREES WEEP

DIRECTORS ZAYA & MAURIZIO BNAZZO EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ASHIRA DARWISH

DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY NICKOLOZ KACHIBAIA, CAROLINE JANET CAMPBELL EDITOR FINLEY MACNEIL COMPOSER ARMAND AMAR

PRODUCERS ZAYA BNAZZO, MAURIZIO BNAZZO, FINLEY MACNEIL LOCATION PRODUCERS MARAL QUTTIENEH, STACY SIMONS



“I left weeping... Devastated to think about these beautiful little boys and girls, women, men, animals, buildings, trees... It's hard to find words. Thank you for bearing witness by traveling to Palestine, and taking the risk of making this powerful, aesthetic, real, and tender film. May it be a vehicle to stir the hearts and souls of many of us into action. Deep bow.”

~ Ellen Emmett



“I watched the movie over the weekend, and then I wept uncontrollably for an hour. I am still affected by it...”

~ Karen Wookey



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