

GOLDA

PRODUCTION NOTES

Golda, a ticking-clock thriller sharing the intensely dramatic events, high-stake responsibilities, and controversial decisions that Meir – also known as the ‘Iron Lady of Israel’ – faced during the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

Her actions, in impossible circumstances, would ultimately decide the fate of millions of lives.



Directed by:

Guy Nattiv

Screenplay by:

Nicholas Martin

Producers:

Michael Kuhn, Jane Hooks, Nicholas Martin

Exec. Producers:

Louise Nathanson, Anna Vincent, Celine Rattray

THE CAST

Helen Mirren is *Golda Meir*, Israel's Prime Minister

Camille Cottin is *Lou Kaddar*, Meir's long-time personal assistant and confidante

Ellie Piercy is *Shir Shaprio*, a typist within Meir's ministerial department

Rami Heuberger is *Moshe Dayan*, Meir's Minister of Defence

Lior Ashkenazi is *David "Dado" Elazar*, Meir's Chief of Staff

Liev Schreiber is *Henry Kissinger*, the Secretary of State for the United States of America

Dominic Mafham is *Haim Bar Lev*, a military officer in the Israeli army

Ed Stoppard is *Benny Peled*, commander of the Israeli Air Force

Henry Goodman is *Shimon Agrat*, the President of the Supreme Court of Israel

GUY NATTIV (DIRECTOR)

Q&A

Tell us what *Golda* is about?

"*Golda*" focuses on the 10 days of the Yom Kippur war in 1973, when the Israeli Prime Minister, Golda Meir must make some of the most important decisions of her life. This movie is getting under her skin in terms of what she's going through mentally, physically, and how she is conducting the worst war Israel ever had.

What was it that attracted you to this story?

I'm Israeli, I was born in Israel in 1973, the year of the Yom Kippur war. My mother carried me into the shelter whilst my father went to war. I grew up on stories from the war. There is a very famous song in Israel, *Choref Shiv'im Veshalosh* (Winter of '73), which told us that when we'll be adults there wouldn't be any more war, because the Yom Kippur war was the war to end all wars in Israel. I was raised with a narrative that we were stronger, more powerful and that we won. Golda Meir was a hero. However, what I learned throughout my adult years is that it's not the case. It was a dreadful war, we lost almost 3000 soldiers. There was a big failure with a lot of units. Within this I found Meir to be a fascinating character, very complicated. Aside from a TV movie in the 1980s no one had tackled her character in such depth.

Who was the real Golda Meir?

She was very tough. Golda is often called the Margaret Thatcher of Israel. She was really smart, really savvy and knew a lot about the world. She was a great politician, and how to handle the Americans. She knew how to bring help outside of Israel. Golda was also a woman with principles, and you couldn't really move her from them. She didn't trust a lot of people, especially not the Arab leaders, she wasn't willing to see a broader picture of the

Middle East. Golda knew how to treat and deal with people, and she never lost her composure, but her stubbornness also brought her into dire situations. She didn't have the vision of how to make peace rather than war and terror. As the film depicts, at the time of the war she had cancer and no one knew about it or that she was being secretly driven to a hospital for treatments.

It's fair to say she was a controversial figure. Why so?

She will always be connected to the failure of Yom Kippur war. Golda was the wrong person, in the wrong place, in the wrong time. She didn't want to be a prime minister, but she had to take the job because no one else wanted it at that time. They pushed her to be a prime minister and then she was thrown into this mayhem and trying to deal with the mess. Israelis are so conflicted about her character. Now, if you look outside of Israel, and Jews outside of Israel, they see more of the romantic story of Golda who came from Milwaukee to Israel when she was a young woman, full of Zionism and a hope to help the country. She was the Iron Lady of Israel and, like Margaret Thatcher, there are some people who love her and some people who hate her.

Where do we find Golda Meir at the beginning of the film?

The beginning of "Golda" is actually the end of her life. It's the end of her days, when she's facing the Aran committee, who are trying to understand what went wrong with the war. Golda knows that her days are over and she's going out into the crowd, feeling like a failure and she's sick, but no one knows about it. She's taking all the blame, which I think gives her more integrity, because she's one of those leaders that would say "it's on me, I'm taking the blame."

Why was Helen Mirren the perfect person to bring Golda to the screen?

A lot of people ask me how it was working with Helen. I'm always saying that I don't know how I will work with other actors now, because working with her was so perfect in every sense. When I joined the project Helen was already attached. We had a Zoom in the midst of the COVID pandemic and she asked me why I think she should play Golda. I told her that "You have the soul, you have the intelligence, and you have the vibe of Golda. For me, as an Israeli, and as Jewish, it doesn't matter if you're not Jewish, you're one of the best actresses of our time and you are Golda to me." When I saw her on the first day on set with all the prosthetics I was blown away. My jaw dropped and I was like, this IS Golda. She really depicted every nuance and every move. I am very grateful for working with a legend.

And how about her physical transformation into Golda?

The first day I saw Helen as Golda was a rainy day in London. We were doing tests and she came out of her trailer, and I saw only her back. She had the wig on and Golda's clothes, and I walked behind her. When she turned to me, I was shocked, it was like she was in front of me. Karen Hartley, our hair and makeup designer, has done amazing work with her team. She has created every nuance in her face, in her hands and every nook and cranny to have Helen become Golda. Helen didn't want to use too many prosthetics; she wanted us to see

the inside of Golda. That's why we kept Helen's eyes. We tried a few prosthetics in the neck, on the face and it took us awhile but when we got it, we all felt it. It was a brilliant job by Karen. Helen was with her from 4am every single morning and then it took an hour to take off at the end of the day. I admit I was nervous that we wouldn't make an uncanny Golda, but when I saw Helen I could release that nervousness and focus on the other things at hand. I'm in awe of the work Karen and her team have done.

In the film Henry Kissinger is played by Liev Schreiber. Who was Kissinger and what was his role within the war, and with Golda?

Henry Kissinger is an American Jew who was the US Secretary of State at the time of the Yom Kippur war. His relationship with Golda was pretty interesting. Kissinger is Nixon's guy, and we're talking about 1973. So, you have all the problems in the White House. He is flying around the world, and he doesn't feel at home. Then he comes to Israel and Golda is almost like a grandmother to him. She's getting under his skin, she talks to him like a friend, gives him soup and provides hospitality in her own home. He has never felt this in another country and perhaps that is what softened him a bit. Golda is smart, savvy and she's half American so she knows how to deal with Americans. Golda always gets what she wants from Kissinger which in this case is a shipment of planes.

A great character in the film is Lou Kadar, played by Camille Cottin. Who was she to Golda?

She was Golda's best friend, the person closest to her. She knew all her secrets, including her illness. She went with her to her treatments. She brought her food, cigarettes, they played chess together and when Golda was bored she would call Lou, she was everything to her. After Golda lost her husband, Lou was almost like a partner to her towards the end of her days.

What can audiences expect from "Golda"?

"Golda" is a war movie, but without the war. It's the war of an older woman and the last days of her life. She's trying to survive her internal war, which is the cancer that is eating her from the inside whilst the country is suffering so much from a surprise attack. She's losing herself, losing her country, but trying to find a little bit of hope. I want audiences to feel this woman and to understand what she's going through. Her struggle, her inner struggle because 1973 was such a pivotal point in Israel's life as a country.

ABOUT THE CAST

Helen Mirren (Golda Meir)

Helen Mirren has won an Oscar®, Emmy, SAG Award, Tony, multiple BAFTA Awards and Golden Globe, as international recognition for her work on stage, screen and television. For her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II in 2006 of "The Queen," she received an Academy Award®, Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Award, and BAFTA Award for Best Actress.

She was also named Best Actress by virtually every critic's organization from Los Angeles to London. In 2014 she was honored with the BAFTA Fellowship for her outstanding career in film. In 2018 she was honored with the Chaplin Gala career achievement recognition from The Film Society at Lincoln Center and in 2022 she was honored by SAG with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mirren was most recently seen in Pathe's "The Duke" with Jim Broadbent, directed by the late Roger Michell to be released in early 2022. She also has also completed "White Bird: A Wonder Story" due for release in September 2022 and "Shazam: Fury Of The Gods" for New Line Cinema and DC Films scheduled for 2023.

Mirren's other recent released films include Universal's "Fast & Furious 9", she was heard voicing a character in Disney's animated film "The One and Only Ivan." And starred with Ian McKellen in Warner Bros.' "The Good Liar."

Previous works include Saban Films' "Berlin, I Love You", Lionsgate's "Anna", Universal Pictures' "Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw", Disney's "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms," Sony Pictures Classics' "The Leisure Seeker," Bleecker Street Media's "Eye in the Sky" and "Trumbo." Additionally, she voiced the character of 'Dean Hardscrabble' in Disney's "Monster's University." And also starred in Disney's "100 Foot Journey," Fox Searchlight Pictures' "Hitchcock" for which she was nominated for a Golden Globe and a SAG Award, "RED" and "RED 2," John Madden-directed thriller "The Debt," in which she plays a Mossad agent and Hungarian director Istvan Szabo's "The Door."

Mirren began her career in the role of Cleopatra at the National Youth Theatre. She then joined the Royal Shakespeare Company, where she starred in such productions as "Troilus and Cressida" and "Macbeth." In 1972, she joined renowned director Peter Brook's theatre company and toured the world.

Her film career began with Michael Powell's "Age of Consent," but her breakthrough film role came in 1980 in John Mackenzie's "The Long Good Friday." Over the next 10 years, she starred in a wide range of acclaimed films, including John Boorman's "Excalibur," Neil Jordan's Irish thriller "Cal," for which she won the Best Actress Award at the Cannes Film Festival and an Evening Standard Film Award; Peter Weir's "The Mosquito Coast," Peter Greenaway's "The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover," and Charles Sturridge's "Where Angels Fear to Tread."

Mirren earned her first Oscar® nomination for her portrayal of Queen Charlotte in Nicholas Hytner's "The Madness of King George," for which she also won Best Actress honors at the 1994 Cannes Film Festival. Her second Oscar® nomination came for her work in Robert Altman's 2001 film "Gosford Park." Her performance as the housekeeper also brought her Golden Globe and BAFTA Award nominations, several critics groups' awards, and dual SAG Awards, one for Best Supporting Actress and a second as part of the winning ensemble cast. More recently Mirren earned both Oscar® and Golden Globe nominations for her performance in "The Last Station," playing Sofya Tolstoy.

Among her other film credits are Terry George's "Some Mother's Son," on which she also served as associate producer, "Calendar Girls," "The Clearing," "Shadowboxer," "State of Play," "The Tempest" and "Brighton Rock".

On television, Mirren starred in the award-winning series "Prime Suspect" as Detective Chief Inspector Jane Tennison. She had earned an Emmy Award and three BAFTA Awards, as well as numerous award nominations, for her role in early installments of the "Prime Suspect" series. She won another Emmy Award and earned a Golden Globe nomination when she reprised the role of Detective Jane Tennison in 2006's "Prime Suspect 7: The Final Act," the last installment in the PBS series. Her long list of television credits also includes "Losing Chase," "The Passion of Ayn Rand," "Door to Door," and "The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone," earning Golden Globe, Emmy and SAG Award® nominations and awards. She starred with Al Pacino in the HBO biopic "Phil Spector," for which she won a SAG Award for her performance and was nominated for an Emmy and a Golden Globe. Mirren was also honoured for her performance as Queen Elizabeth I in the HBO miniseries "Elizabeth I," winning an Emmy Award, a Golden Globe and a SAG Award®. More recently she starred as the eponymous "Catherine The Great" for SKY/HBO, for which she was nominated for a Golden Globe. Her latest television is "Solo's" for Amazon Prime, which was released in 2021.

On stage, Mirren reprised her role as Queen Elizabeth II on Broadway in *The Audience*, a play by Peter Morgan, directed by Stephen Daldry, for which she won the 2015 Tony Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role. In 2013 she debuted her stage role of Elizabeth II in *The Audience* in London's West End, for which she received the Olivier Award, Evening Standard Award and 2014 WhatsOnStage Award, for Best Actress.

Previously Mirren had worked extensively in the theatre. She received an Olivier Award nomination for Best Actress for her performance in "Mourning Becomes Electra" at London's National Theatre. In 2009, Mirren returned to the National Theatre to star in the title role in "Phèdre," directed by Sir Nicholas Hytner.

Helen Mirren was made a Dame of the British Empire in 2003.

Camille Cottin (Lou Kaddar)

Camille is César-nominated, highly accomplished French actress who recently gained international recognition for her role in Netflix's "Call My Agent" and her leading role opposite Matt Deamon in Tom McCarthy's "Still Water". Camille played opposite Lady Gaga and Adam Driver in Ridley Scott's "House of Gucci" and in early 2022 she reprised her role on multi award-winning BBC America series "Killing Eve".

Camille's career in France has included films such as "Iris" by Jalil Lespert, "Cigarettes and Hot Chocolate" by Sophie Reine where she held the female lead role alongside Gustave Kervern and Noémie Saglio's feature film "Like Mother, Like Girl" ("Telle mère, telle fille"), alongside Juliette Binoche and Lambert Wilson. She also starred in "Allied" by Robert Zemeckis and Christophe Honoré's "Room 212", which was nominated for the Un Certain Regard Award at last year's Cannes Film Festival.

On French TV she earned critical acclaim as lead of the hugely successful sketch comedy series “La Connasse” on Canal+ as well as playing the Phoebe Waller Bridge role in the French adaptation of “Fleabag”.

Liev Schreiber (Henry Kissinger)

Heralded as ‘the finest American theatre actor of his generation’ by the New York Times, Liev Schreiber’s repertoire of resonant, humanistic and often gritty performances have garnered him much praise in film, television and theatre.

Schreiber will next appear in the upcoming Wes Anderson film, “Asteroid City”, as well as the Ernest Hemingway adaptation, “Across The River”.

Schreiber most recently starred in the Emmy nominated American Crime drama, “Ray Donovan: The Movie”, a spinoff of the multi-award nominated series which ran for seven seasons. He received three Emmy Award nominations and five Golden Globe nominations for his work on the show.

Other recent film credits include the Academy Award winning “Spotlight”, Wes Anderson’s stop animation film, “The Isle of Dogs”, “The French Dispatch”, “The Fifth Wave”, Jonathan Demme’s, “The Manchurian Candidate”, Lee Daniel’s “The Butler”, “X-Men Origin: Wolverine”, “Defiance”, “Repo Men”, “The Painted Veil”, “The Sum of All Fears”, Ang Lee’s “Taking Woodstock”; “Kate and Leopold”, “Goon”, “Every Day”, “Hamlet”, “A Walk on the Moon”, “Daytrippers”, Nora Ephron’s “Mixed Nuts” and Wes Craven’s “Scream” trilogy.

On stage, he received multiple Tony Award-nominations for his roles in “A View from the Bridge,” “Glengarry Glen Ross” and “Talk Radio.”

Schreiber is also an accomplished director, screenwriter and producer. He wrote and directed the film adaptation of Jonathan Saran Foer’s novel, “Everything is Illuminated” in 2005.

In March 2022, Schreiber cofounded BlueCheck, a Washington D.C. based non-profit organization that identifies, vets and fast tracks urgent financial support to Ukrainian NGO’s and aid initiatives, providing life-saving and other critical humanitarian work on the front lines of Russia’s war on Ukraine.

Ellie Piercy (Shir Shaprio)

Ellie Piercy is an accomplished British actress of both stage and screen. In 2021 she starred in the critically acclaimed Netflix drama “The Dig” with her TV credits including “Black Mirror”, “Hanna” and the “Sister Boniface Mysteries”. On stage she has performed in productions including “Soft Animals”, “Sideways” and “Eventide”.

Rami Heuberger (Moshe Dayan)

After his army service, Heuberger studied acting at Nissan Nativ's acting studio in Tel Aviv. At the end of his studies, Heuberger participated in several theatre plays, among them "Macbeth", "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest", "Hamlet", "Waiting for Godot" and "Black Box". In 2007 the stage play "Scenes from the Marriage" premiered, which was directed by Heuberger and in which he also starred. During the same year, Heuberger performed in the stage play "Anna Karenina" alongside Evgenia Dodina, Alex Ansky and Yuval Segal.

Heuberger's screen roles have included Joseph Bau in Steven Spielberg's "Schindler's List", Gabriel in "Snow in August" and Agmon in the "Prime Minister's Children". Other screen credits include "Actors", "Operation Grandma", "The Bourgeoisie", "Gift From Above" and "In Treatment".

Lior Ashkenazi (David "Dado" Elazar)

Lior Ashkenazi is known as one of Israel's most prominent stage, television and film actors. In 2017, Lior won Best Actor at The Ophir Awards (Israel's version of the Oscars), for his performance as 'Michael Feldmann' in Samuel Maoz's "Foxtrot", winner of the Grand Jury Prize Silver Lion in Venice FF. He can also be seen as 'Yitzhak Rabin' in the feature film "7 Days in Entebbe", alongside Rosamund Pike and Daniel Bruhl.

Lior starred opposite Richard Gere in Joseph Cedar's 2016 feature, "Norman", where he plays Israel's humble, youthful and inspiring Prime Minister 'Micha Eshel'. In 2013, he played a disturbed, violent cop in the Israeli thriller "Big Bad Wolves", which Quentin Tarantino called "the best film of the year". Additionally, in 2011, Lior won the Israeli Film Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor in Joseph Cedar's "Footnote", which was nominated in the Foreign Film category at the Oscars in 2012. Lior also won the 2001 Israeli Film Academy Award for Best Actor for his breakthrough role in Dover Koshashvili's "Late Marriage".

In television, Lior starred in Israel's original version of "Intreatment", which was later adapted in the United States by HBO. Lior can also be seen in HBO's "Our Boys". He also appeared as a series regular in the HBO Max original "Valley of Tears". He can currently be seen on Netflix's "Hit & Run" as a series regular, opposite Lior Raz and Sanaa Lathan. Most recently, Lior directed the feature film "Perfect Strangers", an Israeli adaptation of a 2016 Italian film of the same name.

Rotem Keinan (Zvi Zamir)

Rotem Keinan is an Israeli actor known for "Big Bad Wolves", "Oslo", "The Operative" and "Fauda". In 2011 Keinan won the award for Best Acting Performance for "The Exchange". His theatre credits at the Habima National Theatre include "King Lear", "Coriolanus" and "Our Class".

Dvir Benedek (Eli Zeria)

Dvir Benedek is an Israeli actor who has appeared in many theatre plays, television series and feature films. He's best known for his role in the television series "Taxi Driver" and as

the lead character in "HaMisrad", an Israeli version of British show "The Office". On stage Benedek has appeared in Israeli plays such as "Gever Isha Milim", "Miskhakey Hevra", "Revizor", "4 on 4", In Habima Theatre: "Hadibuk", "Kadish Le Neomy", "The Good Soldier Švejk", "Tango", "Perurim", and "Driving Miss Daisy". In 2008, he won the Best supporting actor award on behalf of Habima Theatre. Benedek was also the first non-English speaking actor to portray Shrek in the Israeli production of "Shrek the Musical". Benedek has co-starred in the movies "Maya", "Kirof", "Kalat Hayam", "A Matter of Size", "Seret hatuna", "Yomuledet", "Eize Makom Nifla", "Yeladim Tovim", "Hamesh Dakot BeHalicha", "Lemon Popsicle 9: The Party Goes On", "Mars Turkey", "D.F.1: The Lost Patrol", "Mivtza Savta", "Zman Avir" and "The Attack". In 2020, Benedek also anonymously participated in the Israeli production of "The Masked Singer" as The Shark.

Dominic Mafham (Haim Bar Lev)

Dominic was nominated for an Irish Film and Television Award in the 'Best Leading Actor' category for his role as Dan Woodhouse in "The Clinic" and for a Broadway World 'Best Supporting Actor' award for his performance as Osborne in the West End run of "Journey's End". Other credits include: "Killing Eve" (BBC), "Grantchester" (ITV), "W1A" (BBC), "Ophelia" (Covert Media) and "The English Patient" (dir: Anthony Minghella).'

Ed Stoppard (Benny Peled)

Ed Stoppard most recently filmed "The Princess" for Hulu and Peter Kosminsky's "Darkness Rising" for Channel 4. You can watch Ed as 'The Director' in the TV adaptation of Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World", which is available on Peacock in the US and on Sky One in the UK. He played the regular role of King Philip for two series of History Channel's tentpole show, "Knightfall". Ed plays 'Lucas Becker' in the crime thriller series "Trackers", which is airing now on Cinemax in the US. It aired in South Africa last year and was the highest rated show on the M-NET network there. Ed's other recent TV credits include "The Crown", "The Frankenstein Chronicles" and "Home Fires Season 2". Ed's film credits include Paul Sorrentino's "Youth" and Roman Polanski's "The Pianist". Ed also starred in Tom Stoppard's rave-reviewed play, "Leopoldstadt", before lockdown.

Henry Goodman (Chairman Agranat)

Henry Goodman is a leading English actor who has worked extensively in television, film and in theatre (Broadway, West End, NT & RSC). On stage in the UK, Goodman played the role of Arturo Ui in "Arturo Ui", Shylock in "The Merchant of Venice", Billy Flynn in "Chicago" and Charles Guiteau in "Assassins". On Broadway he played the title role in Tartuffe and Serge in "Art" among others. He has won numerous awards for his theatre work. TV credits include Sir Humphrey in "Yes, Prime Minister" and more recently "Soulmates" and "The New Pope". Film credits include "The Chosen One", "The Last Planet", "The Good Traitor", "Avengers: Age of Ultron", "Their Finest", "The Limehouse Golem", "Woman in Gold", "Notting Hill", "Hunter Killer", "Driftwood" and "Love Gets A Room". Upcoming releases include: "Sundown" and "Tomorrow Morning".

Recent audio work includes: "Victoria Park" by Gemma Reeves, "Jaws" by Peter Benchley, 'Fall: The Mystery of Robert Maxwell by John Preston both for BBC Radio 4, "Young Blood (Audible) and Nuremberg for BBC Sounds

ABOUT THE CREW

Guy Nattiv (Director)

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Nicholas Martin (Writer/Producer)

Initially Nicholas Martin began writing feature pieces about his travels and contributing to British newspapers including The Sunday Times, The Guardian and various magazines. In 1989 he won a place at The National Film and Television School to study scriptwriting. He graduated in 1992 and began writing for British TV. His first produced script was for the highly regarded BBC series "Between the Lines", which won the BAFTA award for best series. In 1998 he wrote the comedy drama series "Big Bad World" for ITV as well as episodes of "Midsomer Murders". In early 2014, producer Michael Kuhn read Martin's script "Florence Foster Jenkins" and optioned it the same day. Within a week, Stephen Frears had agreed to direct and within three weeks Meryl Streep had signed on to play Florence. The movie was nominated for two Academy Awards® and four Golden Globes.

In 2017 he became interested in the life of Golda Meir. He made several research trips to Israel and interviewed Golda's family members and colleagues including Zvi Zamir, the former head of Mossad. The extraordinary and largely unknown story of Golda's leadership during the 1973 Yom Kippur war that he discovered formed the basis for his script "Golda".

He is currently adapting "My War Gone By, I Miss it So", Anthony Lloyd's account of his reporting for The Times from Bosnia during the civil war, whilst struggling with heroin addiction.

Michael Kuhn (Producer)

Michael Kuhn was educated at Dover College and Clare College Cambridge and qualified as a Solicitor. He joined Polygram N.V. (which became the largest record company in the world) in 1975 and having moved to Los Angeles in 1991 set up Polygram Filmed Entertainment, which had direct distribution in 14 countries of the world and which made and distributed over 100 feature films and which between them won 14 Academy Awards®. These films included "Four Weddings and a Funeral", "Notting Hill", "Dead Man Walking", "Fargo", "The Big Lebowski", "The Usual Suspects", "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels", "Elizabeth", "Trainspotting" and "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert". After Polygram was sold in 1998 to Seagram, he set up Qwerty Films in 1999, producing features including "I Heart Huckabees", "Kinsey", "Severance", "The Duchess" and "Suite Française". The company's project, "Florence Foster Jenkins", starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant, directed by Stephen Frears, was released in May 2016 and was nominated for four Golden Globe Awards, four BAFTAs and two Academy Awards®.

His book “100 Films and a Funeral” documenting the creation of PolyGram Films was published in 2001 and a documentary based on it was released in 2009. BAFTA awarded him the Michael Balcon Award for Outstanding Contribution to British Film in 1998

Among other positions he has held he was a Patron of Skillset, the Chair of the Independent Cinema Office, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He was appointed Chair of the National Film and Television School in 2002, and awarded a fellowship in 2008. He has also sat on the boards of Northern Ireland Screen Council and UK Jewish Film.

Jane Hooks (Producer)

Jane started her career as a regional producer for the UK Film Council’s Shorts slate. She then founded her company Perfume Films and has since garnered over 25 feature film credits.

In 2008 Jane was nominated for a BAFTA Film Award for Best Short Film for Simon Ellis’ *Soft* (2006) and won Best International Short at Sundance and Best British Short at the British Independent Film Awards.

Later that year she co-produced Nicolas Winding Refn’s “Bronson” with Tom Hardy and Paul King’s feature debut “Bunny and the Bull” followed by “Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll” with Andy Serkis as Iain Dury. Future credits include Dan Mazer’s, “I Give it a Year” for Studiocanal and David Frankel’s “One Chance”, starring James Corden, “The Woman in Black: The Angel of Death” for director Tom Harper and Hammer Films, “Spooks: The Greater Good” for Kudos Film & TV, “Patrick” for Disney and Ed Hall’s “Blithe Spirit” with Judy Dench and Dan Stevens.

Recent credits include “People Just Do Nothing: Big in Japan” (2021 for BBC Films and Focus Features; Anthony Fabian’s “Mrs Harris Goes to Paris” (2022) with Lesley Manville; and “Living”, directed by Oliver Hermanus for Number 9 films starring Bill Nighy.

In 2022 Jane produced the musical “Greatest Days”, directed by Coky Cyedroic for Elysian Film Group.

Arad Sawat (Production Designer)

Arad Sawat is an international set and production designer, who has designed and created sets for many television series and feature films. Born in Israel, Sawat gained international recognition following his production design for the Oscar-nominated Joseph Cedar film “Footnote”. Since, he has won three Ophir Awards in the best production design category: in 2011 for the film “Footnote”, in 2013 for the film “Big Bad Wolves” and in 2017 for the film “Foxtrot”. Arad received the Israeli Television Academy award for his work on HBO’s “Our Boys”. In 2016, after signing with a major artists' agency, he began to focus on international projects.

Jasper Wolf (Director of Photography)

Jasper Wolf is a critically acclaimed Amsterdam based cinematographer. He is best known for his work on "Monos", from Director Alejandro Landes, which won the Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival and led to an ASC Spotlight Award Nomination for him. Wolf also took home the Best Cinematography prize for his work on Urszula Antoniak's "Code Blue" and has shot "Instinct" by Director Halina Reijn, as well as "Dead & Beautiful" from Director David Verbeek. Most recently, he reunited with Reijn on "Bodies, Bodies, Bodies" for A24.

Karen Hartley Thomas (Make Up and Hair Designer)

Karen is a gifted Hair and Make-up Designer who has received various nominations throughout her career. In 2009, she was nominated for a BAFTA and an Emmy for her work on "Little Dorrit" for the BBC, and in 2010 she received her second Emmy nomination for Outstanding Hair Styling for Simon Curtis' "Cranford", starring Judi Dench and Imelda Staunton. The following year, Karen was nominated for a BAFTA Award for Best Make-up and Hair Design for her work on Michael Samuels' "Any Human Heart" with a stellar cast including Jim Broadbent, Haley Atwell, Matthew Macfadyen and Gillian Anderson.

Other television credits include Tom Hooper's "Longford" with Jim Broadbent and Samantha Morton; Hugo Blick's "The Shadow Line" with Chiwetel Ejiofor; Peter Morgan's "The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies", directed by Roger Michell with Jason Watkins in lead; "The Child in Time" with director Julian Farino; and the critically acclaimed "Patrick Melrose", directed by Edward Berger and with Benedict Cumberbatch on the title role.

Karen started her collaboration with director Dominic Cooke on "The Hollow Crown": "Henry VI" & "Richard III" with Benedict Cumberbatch, Judi Dench and Sophie Okonedo. Then followed two features: "On Chesil Beach" starring Saoirse Ronan and Billy Howle; and "The Courier" with Benedict Cumberbatch and Jessie Buckley.

Other film credits include Peter Strickland's "Berberian Sound Studio"; Roger Michell's "Le Week-End" featuring Jim Broadbent and Lindsay Duncan; "The Corrupted" with Sam Claflin, Timothy Spall and Hugh Bonneville; and Armando Iannucci's "The Personal History of David Copperfield", starring Dev Patel, Ben Wishaw, Tilda Swinton and Hugh Laurie.

She reunited with Roger Michell on "The Duke", a feature with Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren in the lead roles.

She returned to television to do "Adult Material", written by Lucy Kirkwood, with Hayley Squires playing the lead; and Andrew Haig's miniseries "The North Water" produced by See-Saw, starring Jack O'Connell and Colin Farrell.

In 2021, she designed "Persuasion" directed by Carrie Cracknell for Netflix; Florian Zeller's "The Son" with Hugh Jackman, Laura Dern and Vanessa Kirby.

In 2022, Karen has designed two features: "Greatest Days", a musical featuring Take That songs, directed by Coky Gierroyc; "Red, White and Royal Blue" Matthew Lopez's directorial

debut for Amazon studios; and “One Life” directed by James Hawes for See-Saw Films with Anthony Hopkins, Helena Bonham Carter, and Johnny Flynn.

Sinéad Kidao (Costume Designer)

Sinéad Kidao (née O’Sullivan) is a BAFTA nominated costume designer, living and working in London. She studied French and Drama at Trinity College Dublin, before she moved to London to study costume design at RADA. Her costume design credits include the upcoming feature films “My Mother’s Wedding” directed by Dame Kristin Scott Thomas, starring Scarlett Johansson and Sienna Miller and “Golda” directed by Guy Nattiv, starring Dame Helen Mirren. Previous work includes the TV series “Life after Life” directed by John Crowley, starring Thomasin McKenzie; “The Pursuit of Love” directed by Emily Mortimer, starring Lily James and Dominic West; “Small Axe - Red White and Blue” and “Small Axe - Education” directed by Steve Mc Queen, starring John Boyega and Kenyah Sandy; Black Mirror “Nosedive” directed by Joe Wright, starring Bryce Dallas Howard and Alice Eve; “This Way Up” directed by Alex Winckler, starring Aisling Bea and Sharon Horgan and Urban Myths “Marilyn Monroe and Billy Wilder” directed by Sean Foley and starring Gemma Arterton and Adam Brody.

Prior to designing her own work, Sinéad worked with Academy Award winning costume designer Jacqueline Durran for ten years, who she has assistant designed for on multiple projects including “Little Women”, “Beauty and the Beast”, “Macbeth”, “Pan”, “Mr Turner”, “Mary Magdalene” and “Peterloo”. Other assistant design credits include “The Worlds End” designed by Guy Speranza and “Wonder Woman 1984” designed by Lindy Hemming.

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