

The Gatekeepers

Israel 2012

Directed by
Dror Moreh**Film Editing**
Oron Adar**Cinematography**
Avner Shahaf**Music**
Regis Baillet
Jerome Chassagnard
Alex Claude
Daniel Meir**Contributions from**
Ami Ayalon
Avi Dichter
Yuval Diskin
Carmi Gillon
Yaakov Peri
Avraham Shalom

101 min

*Our next screening...***Elena**

Tue 18 March 2014

Dir: Andrey Zvyagintsev

A biting satirical thriller
about the enormous wealth
divide in Russia.**Welcome to our second documentary
of the season – one that makes for
compelling viewing.**

Jaw-dropping testimonies from Israel's answer to MI6 in this Oscar-nominated shock doc. There's the overriding suspicion that the content and central intrigue of this film would've probably functioned just as well as a juicy long read in a national newspaper. Yet there are a few moments in Dror Moreh's horrifying documentary that need to be seen to be believed. Of the myriad moral contradictions at play here, it's the idea that these men remain entirely unaccountable for their actions that is perhaps the most shocking of all.

David Jenkins, Little White Lies

When asked whether he thinks his film can help change some perspectives, especially because it doesn't shy away from criticizing Shin Bet's and Israel's politics, Moreh responded with a short story. Three settlers came to him after a screening in Jerusalem, told him that they saw the "truth in their own voices" after watching *The Gatekeepers*, and would go home that night to think about how their own ideology may be contributing to the on-going problem. If there was ever an example of how you measure the success of a documentary, that's the one.

Nikola Grozdanovic, IndieWire

Moreh was reportedly inspired to make *The Gatekeepers* after seeing Errol Morris's brilliant *The Fog of War*, in which Robert McNamara looked back on the impact of his decisions on modern warfare. Moreh clearly took an important lesson from his admiration of Morris in that it's the interviews that matter most of all. He asks just the right questions, never prodding these understandably private men too far but getting what he needs. After obtaining the degree of honesty in his interviews that must have startled even Moreh, he took the footage and assembled it into a very Morris-esque journey (complete with stellar, 3-D recreations) through a half-century of Middle Eastern violence as partitioned into seven segments. Each segment generally follows one Shin Bet head but they also perfectly illustrate changing times in the country. If there's a theme to the interviews in *The Gatekeepers*, it's a common one in films about the Middle East but it hasn't been this well-presented in some time – there are no easy decisions. *The Gatekeepers* comes after dozens of films about the always turbulent state of violence in Israel, however, none have had this degree of information and, more importantly, reflection from the people not only on the frontlines but making the decisions that led to their existence.

Brian Tallerico, Film ThreatVoting for *The Hunt*: A-49 B-14 C-1 D-0 E-0 Rating: 93.8% Attendance: 75