

"Promises"

AFTER WATCHING THE FILM YOU MUST WRITE A FILM REVIEW, OR CRITIQUE. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME GUIDELINES FOR WRITING FILM REVIEWS.

A good theatre review does not merely summarize the plot of the film. A good review provides the reading with background for understanding the film and its production. It should give some information about the producer, director, and the cultural context of the film. It describes important details of the production – such as acting, direction and staging – and how these factors contribute to the film's total impact. In addition, a good review offers the reader an overall assessment of the performance experience from the perspective of somebody who has seen the film.

STEP 1: COLLECTING DATA – Before you write your review, you need to make yourself familiar with the actors, director, playwright, and the cultural context of the play. Read the back of this sheet to collect the data you need. **(WORTH 5 POINTS) I did this part for you!**

Directed by	Carlos Bolado B.Z. Goldberg Justine Shapiro
Produced by	B.Z. Goldberg Justine Shapiro
Starring	Moishe and Raheli Bar Am Faraj Adnan Hassan Husein Mahmoud Mazen Mahmoud Izhiman Daniel Solan Yarko Solan Sanabel Hassan Shlomo
Music by	Wim Mertens
Cinematography	Ilan Buchbinder Yoram Millo
Edited by	Carlos Bolado
Release date(s)	January 30, 2001
Running time	106 min.
Language	English/Arabic/Hebrew

Promises is a 2001 [documentary film](#) that examines the [Israeli-Palestinian conflict](#) from the perspectives of seven children living in the Palestinian communities in the [West Bank](#) and Israeli neighborhoods of [Jerusalem](#).

The film follows Israeli-American filmmaker [B.Z. Goldberg](#) as he meets with seven Palestinian and Israeli children between the ages of nine and thirteen, seeing the Middle East conflict through their eyes. Rather than focusing on specific political events, the film gives voice to these [children](#), who, although living only 20 minutes apart, live in completely separate worlds. The most important aspect of the film is that it allows "ordinary" kids to develop natural bonds of affection by simply playing games with each other - bonds which go beyond the clutter of prejudices that they have heard from their parents and others around them.

Promises was shot between 1997 and 2000 and was produced in association with the [Independent Television Service](#) with partial funding provided by the [Corporation for Public Broadcasting](#).

The film has a running time of 106 minutes, and includes Arabic, Hebrew and English dialogue with English subtitles.

In 2004 the filmmakers' produced a follow-up program called *Promises: Four Years On*, which features interviews and updates on the children's current lives. It lasts 25 minutes and is included as a special feature on the film's DVD release.

Promises has been shown at many film festivals and received excellent reviews and many accolades.

STEP 2: ROUGH DRAFT (WORTH 20 POINTS)

You need to write a rough draft using the format below as your guide.

STEP 5: REVISE/EDIT (WORTH 20 POINTS)

You need to have your play edited by three people – a fellow student, a teacher, and a parent. At least one of these needs to use the rubric you will have provided to you.

STEP 6: FINAL DRAFT (WORTH 50 POINTS)

You need to make the edits/changes to your draft as suggested by your three editors and type your final draft.

STEP 7: TURN IN ALL OF YOUR WORK PRODUCT FROM STEP 1 – 6 IN A FOLDER (5 Pts)

FORMAT FOR WRITING YOUR REVIEW

- **FIRST PARAGRAPH** The opening paragraph of your review should include answers to the five W's; **Who?** (the playwright, director, actors) **What?** (the film, the title of the film) **Where?** (where did you see the film) **When?** (When was the film made) **Why?** (a general assessment of the film's purpose or worth)
- **SECOND PARAGRAPH** Briefly summarizes the action in the film and touch on the major themes of the film. This paragraph should also comment on the directing. It should give your opinion about the film overall discussing if you think the director conveyed the intent of the screenwriter, or if you think the director could have done a better job. Again, be specific, give examples and/or reasons for your opinions
- **THIRD PARAGRAPH** Did this film give you a clear picture of what it would have been like to live in Israel? If yes...how. Describe what it was like for the different children.
- **FOURTH PARAGRAPH** This paragraph should examine any technical aspects of the film (sets costumes, lights, props, sound, and make-up as well as film effects, and specific shots), especially as they reinforce or further the film's effectiveness, and this paragraph should discuss the Directing and editing. Always identify the Kid who is being portrayed and be specific about how the filmmaker portrayed them, giving examples of why you thought the Documentary filmmaker did a good or bad job .
- **FINAL PARAGRAPH.** This paragraph should contain your overall impression, and indicate to your reading audience your opinion as to whether they should see this film or not. Establish and explain your own personal rating scale here.