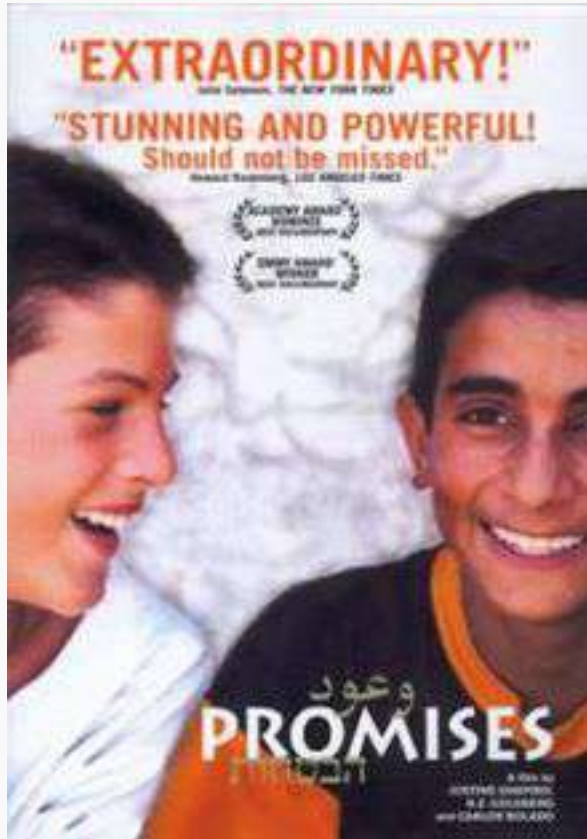


## Promises (film)

### *Promises*



**Directed by** [Carlos Bolado](#)  
[B.Z. Goldberg](#)  
[Justine Shapiro](#)

**Produced by** [B.Z. Goldberg](#)  
[Justine Shapiro](#)

**Starring** Moische and Raheli Bar Am  
Faraj Adnan Hassan Husein  
Mahmoud Mazen Mahmoud Izhiman  
Daniel

**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.

## The Children

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- Daniel and Yarko: Israeli boys living in west Jerusalem, secular Jews, put off more by religious Jews than Palestinians; grandsons of Holocaust survivor
- Shlomo: Jewish quarter in Jerusalem, Orthodox, son of a Jewish rabbi
- Moishe: lives in Beit-El in the West-Bank, dislikes the Arabs
- Faraj: lives in the Deheishe refugee camp in the West Bank, Palestinian; son of Palestinian refugees
- Mahmoud: Palestinian quarter in East Jerusalem; son of merchant in Muslim quarter of the Old City
- Sanabel: Palestinian lives also in the Deheishe refuge camp, father is in prison because he was affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Before her brother died from heat stroke, he was also in prison.

## Awards

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- 2002 The NBR Freedom of Expression Citation National Board of Review
- 2002 The Michael Landon Award for Community Service to Youth Twenty-Third Annual Young Artist Awards
- 2001 Emmy Award, Best Documentary
- 2001 Emmy Award, Best Background Analysis
- 2001 Rotterdam International Film Festival Audience Award, Best Film
- 2001 Munich Film Festival Freedom of Expression Award
- 2001 Jerusalem Film Festival Special Festival Award
- 2001 Locarno International Film Festival Special Ecumenical Jury Prize
- 2001 San Francisco International Film Festival Audience Award, Best Documentary Grand Prize, Best Documentary Golden Gate Award, Documentary Film
- 2001 Vancouver International Film Festival Audience Award, Diversity in Spirit Award
- 2001 Hamptons International Film Festival Best Documentary
- 2001 São Paulo International Film Festival Best Documentary Audience Award
- 2001 Valladolid International Film Festival Best Documentary
- 2001 Paris International Film Festival (Rencontres) Audience Award-Best Film