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Dershowitz Makes “The Case” for Israel

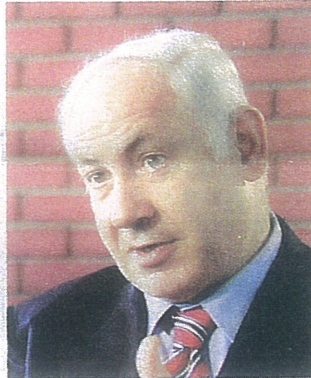
by Deborah Fineblum Raub

You can't help but walk out of the theater after taking in the new documentary *The Case for Israel: Democracy's Outpost* with a deepened understanding of both what Israel is up against and what's at stake. What's more, you can't help but marvel at the strength and fortitude that keeps her afloat in the face of some terrible odds.

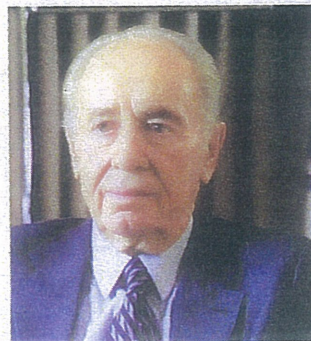
The film, released last month by Gloria Greenfield and Michael Yohay of Doc Emet Productions, is a big-screen version of Alan Dershowitz's best-selling book of the same name. And, make no mistake about it, Harvard's resident celebrity lawyer is the star of this show. Here he lectures his captive audience on Israel's challenges. He paces as he prepares to rebut Jimmy Carter's Israeli-Apartheid rant at Brandeis. He walks the war-torn streets of Sderot.

But here Dershowitz also does something that his public rarely sees: He listens.

He listens to the impressive



Benjamin Netanyahu



Shimon Peres

Greek chorus of superstars he interviews all over the world during the two years it took to make the film: To such Israeli power brokers as Ehud Barak, Tzipi Livni, Natan Sharansky, Shimon Peres and “Bibi” Netanyahu and, to the deep expertise of Michael Oren, Caroline Glick, Phyllis Chesler and Dennis Ross.

The film manages to whisk the viewer through history: tracing the Jewish presence in this much-disputed land to Biblical days, then fast-forwarded to the land disputes of the mid-20th century, the birth of Israel followed by countless attacks on the infant state and the population shifts of Jews and Muslims between Israel and Arab lands. It also takes

a jaundiced look at a UN that regularly condemns Israel for human rights violations while turning the deafest of ears to such crimes against humanity as the genocide in Darfur.

Throughout the documentary, designed as a multi-sensory tool to educate campus groups and others seeking to understand where Israel is coming from, film clips serve to bring the talking heads to life and give their words powerful context. We witness the horror following a terror attack on a city bus, liberation day at a concentration camp, the children of Sderot diving for safety when the siren wails that another bomb is falling.

At the New England debut, co-sponsored by CJP, more than 540 advocates, students and donors to the film gave Dershowitz, who's emerged as a leading voice for Israel, a standing ovation. For this ambitious undertaking, so needed in a world turned increasingly cold to the Jewish state, it was a well deserved gesture, one to be shared and savored by him, the producers and all those who contributed to making “The Case for Israel.”

For tickets to the next showing, Monday, December 8 at Regal Fenway Stadium 13 Cinema, 201 Brookline Avenue, Boston, contact Jessica at jessicad@cjp or 617-457-8782. To learn more about the film, visit www.thecaseforisrael.com (after Dec. 1) or contact producer Gloria Greenfield at ggreenfield@docemetproductions.com or 617-694-4257.