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presenteert / présente:

# THE WEDDING PLAN

## (Through the wall)



release: 27/12/2017

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# Synopsis

## • NL •

Dertiger Michal is van plan in het huwelijksbootje te stappen. Echter ziet haar verloofde in Michal niet de liefde van zijn leven en verbreekt de relatie. Michal besluit verder te gaan met de voorbereidingen voor de bruiloft. Ze legt de datum vast en stelt zichzelf een deadline. Ze heeft een maand de tijd om een geschikte huwelijkskandidaat te vinden. Ze heeft de locatie, de trouwjurk, het appartement; nu nog de bruidegom. Ze roept de hulp in van een huwelijksbemiddelaar en ontmoet in korte tijd heel veel potentiële partners. Zal zij haar Mister Right weten te vinden? Als ze kort voor de bruiloft nog steeds geen bruidegom heeft weten te strikken, besluit ze maar op de Goddelijke Voorzienigheid te vertrouwen.

## • FR •

À 32 ans, Michal est enfin heureuse : tout est prêt pour qu'elle s'unisse à l'homme de sa vie. Un mois avant le jour J, quand il lui avoue qu'il ne l'aime pas, Michal est au bord de la crise de nerfs. Bien décidée à abandonner son statut de célibataire qui lui colle à la peau, Michal continue ses préparatifs comme si de rien n'était. Elle le sait, car Dieu l'a prévu : elle se mariera le huitième soir de Hanouka. Elle a la robe, le traiteur, le lieu de la fête... après tout, il lui reste 30 jours pour trouver un mari !

# Specificaties / Spécifications

**duur / durée:** 110 min.

**productie / production:** Norma Productions

**ondertiteling:** Nederlands & Frans, dialogen in het Hebreeuws

**sous-titrage:** néerlandais & français, dialogues en Hébreu

**formaat / format:** 1: 1,85

**geluid / son:** 5.1

# Cast

Michal	Noa Koler
Shimi	Amos Tamam
Yoss	Oz Zehavi
Michal's mother	Irit Sheleg
Feigi	Ronny Merhavi
Michal's sister	Dafi Alpern
Assaf	Oded Leopold
'Blind date'	Udi Pers
'Deaf date'	Jonathan Rozen

# Crew

**regie / réalisation en/et scenario / scénario:** Rama Burshstein

**art direction / direction artistique:** Ori Aminov

**cinematografie / photographie:** Amit Yasour

**montage:** Yael Hersonski

**productie / production:** Assaf Amir

**productiehuis / société de production:** Norma Productions

**geluid / son:** Alex Claude, Daniel Meir & Moti Hefetz

**muziek / musique:** Roy Edri

**casting:** Michal Koren

**kostuums / costumes:** Hava Levy Rozalski

# Rama Burshtein

Rama Burshtein was born in New York, USA in 1967, and raised in Israel. She graduated from the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School, Jerusalem in 1994. During those years Rama became deeply religious and upon her graduation she dedicated herself to promoting film as a tool for self-expression in the orthodox community.



Rama wrote, directed and produces films for the orthodox community, some of them only for women. She is also teaching directing and scriptwriting in various film and television institutions within the orthodox community; those include Ma'ale Film School, Yad Benjamin Film School for Women, Ulpna Arts School, Jerusalem.

Fill the void was her first feature film. The film received critical acclaim when presented at the official competition at the Venice Film Festival where Hadas Yaron won the Coppa Volpi for best actress. The film was shown at numerous other international film festivals including Sundance, New York and Toronto. The film won 7 Israeli Academy Awards including the award for Best Picture. Rama just finished her second feature film The Wedding Plan (Through The Wall).

## Director's comment

To break through the wall, you must believe 100% that it's possible. With 99.9% you end up breaking your skull. Through the wall is a dramatic romantic comedy. It should lift up the spirit and give strength because Michal is not obsessed to get married rather she wants to beat the despair and let the good win.

I feel that what I personally lack most is a belief in good and a defeat of desperation. To flex the faith muscle, one must sometimes devote one's soul. To stand on the highest springboard, hold my nose, and jump, even if I'm unsure the pool is filled with water.

## Filmography

2016 Through the wall

2012 Fill the void

# Recensie - Critique du film

## She's Got 'The Wedding Plan,' With a Groom TBD - Ben Kenigsberg

The premise and the title of “The Wedding Plan” suggest a bubbly rom-com, but this prickly, delicately layered film from Rama Burshtein — an ultra-Orthodox director based in Israel — has the tangled ambiguity of a Talmudic lesson. Like Ms. Burshtein’s “Fill the Void” (2013), the story of a religious woman who must decide whether to marry her dead sister’s husband, “The Wedding Plan” manages to be respectful of traditions while at the same time feeling modern, even progressive.

Like “Fill the Void,” “The Wedding Plan” concerns marriage, something that the 32-year-old Michal (Noa Koler) desperately wants. On the verge of tying the knot, she asks her fiancé why he’s seemed distant. He admits that he doesn’t love her, a confession he had been avoiding.

Taking the engagement’s collapse in stride, Michal tallies the years she’s been dating. Impulsively following through on her original plans, she books a wedding hall for the last night of Hanukkah. That gives her three weeks to find a groom — possibly more of a miracle than the Hanukkah lights.

Like Ms. Burshtein, who also wrote the script, Michal doesn’t fit ultra-Orthodox stereotypes. (She runs a mobile petting zoo, which hardly seems like a typical profession.) In a complicated role, the excellent Ms. Koler exudes a kind of flighty confidence: For all her nuptial-related anxieties, Michal is completely comfortable with who she is.

Certainly, the matchmaking industry doesn’t know what to make of her. Michal is set up with a succession of men, including one who is deaf and another who refuses to look at her. (If he only looks at the woman he marries, he explains, she’ll be the most beautiful woman in the world to him.) For a stretch, Michal’s most likely candidate seems to be the nonreligious pop star (Oz Zehavi) she meets on a pilgrimage in Ukraine. Is he toying with her? Is she toying with him?

But “The Wedding Plan” doesn’t settle, as the Hollywood version of this story might have, for offering a cavalcade of comically wrong men. It holds out a few different prospects for Michal and keeps her (and us) guessing until the end. It’s a comedy in the Shakespearean sense — we know it will end with a wedding, groom or not — but Ms. Burshtein leaves open the possibility that it might be a broken one. The hoped-for marriage isn’t just a test of Michal’s happiness but also of her religiosity: A rabbi warns Michal against “counting on miracles,” and wonders what will happen to her faith if she doesn’t find a husband in time.

Ms. Burshtein asks viewers to take a leap of faith as well with a borderline surreal finale, which finds Michal, woozy in close-ups during a fast, trying to comprehend what’s happening around her. It’s a mystical touch — another tipoff that this ordinary-sounding movie is actually pretty special.





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