

ART THREAT

The best political films of 2010

Pro-life militants, kid activists, fracking, garbage portraits, and the decline of the American Empire

by [Ezra Winton](#) on December 16, 2010

ISRAEL VS. ISRAEL (Terje Carlsson, Sweden, 2010)

The last thing an American Jew expects to be called by another Jew is a “Nazi,” yet this is the reality progressive Jews fighting the illegal occupation inside Israel face from fanatic Israeli Jews. ISRAEL VS. ISRAEL is one of the most important documentaries I have seen in the growing arsenal of cinematic testimonies to the oppression of the Palestinian people. So many films have documented the devastation and despair of Palestinians yet few films highlight the lesser-known struggle of progressive Israeli and international Jews who risk their careers, reputations, and lives for the Palestinian cause.

Carlsson’s one hour exploration of these unsung heroes is a moving portrait of the fight from the inside – four men and women who stand up to both the Israeli state and to fanatic, violent and mentally unbalanced settlers. Disparate moments of bravery are woven together and make up a larger picture of solidarity and community – of a social, political and cultural movement that includes Israeli citizens, rabbis, former IDF soldiers, and Jews from the West. What they face is the overwhelming violence of the Israeli state as it continues its policy of occupation, oppression and expansion as well as fundamentalist militants whose children are encouraged to throw stones and sewage at elderly Palestinian women as they pass in the street. The images are shocking and terrifying. That such cruel manifestations of life on this planet exist is heartbreaking. Celebrating those that defy their own government, their own people, and who risk life and limb to fight with the Palestinians is one of the most important stories ever to be told from this ongoing conflict. (EW)