## MATANEL FOUNDATION

## **ACTIVITY REPORT**

**Program**: Film Bus Project **Year**: 2025

Name of the Program: Film Bus Project – as part of TISFF (Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival)

Year of activity: 2025

Name of the report's writer: Daniel Gat

Function of the report's writer: Festival Director

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Number of active participants in the program: 20

Estimated number of impacted participants: 830

Give the actually state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report): The Film Bus Project was successfully completed in August 2025. The journey created meaningful personal connections between participating film students and residents in the communities we visited, connections that continue to this day. The project concluded on a high note, with a deep sense of impact, dialogue, and cultural exchange that extended well beyond the screenings themselves.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants): The five-day journey took place across several communities in northern Israel. Each stop included an evening of community gathering and open-air screenings of short and feature films. The filmmakers of the short films traveled on the bus together with the festival team, taking part in daily Q&A sessions following each screening. After that, the local audiences actively participated in discussions, showing great enthusiasm and emotional engagement with the young filmmakers and the themes of the films, including loss and grief, aging, the political situation in Israel, and family relationships. These encounters created genuine and inspiring conversations across generations.

Screenings were held in Kibbutz Mizra (150 participants), Beit Alfa (250), Nir David (80), Degania (100), and on the last day at Eretz Israel Museum (250). In addition, the students and filmmakers volunteered in Kfar Ruppin with local youth, leading educational and creative activities related to cinema before continuing to the evening events.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...): Following the project, the festival team reached out to community representatives to gather feedbacks. Several valuable insights were shared, helping us learn and improve for the coming year. We have already implemented lessons learned from 2024's edition, which was also successful, by refining our logistics, time management, and communication processes. This year we placed a stronger emphasis on the social dimension of the project, which proved highly effective: audiences connected deeply with the screenings, and students developed meaningful bonds with the places and people they met.

Next year we plan to strengthen this social approach even further, possibly adding a preliminary phase before the tour or incorporating a hands-on creative component, such as developing a short collaborative film during the journey.

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year: As mentioned before, we intend to continue nurturing the social and communal aspects of the Film Bus Project and to focus once again on regions that have been affected by the ongoing war in Israel. We have not yet appointed the project manager for 2026; once this position is filled, we will be able to determine the specific locations and partners for the next journey.

Our vision remains clear - to continue spreading connection, healing, and hope through cinema, reaching communities that need it most, and turning the Film Bus into a symbol of resilience, creativity, and togetherness.

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The Film Bus Project video