

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: *Film Bus Project*

Year: 2026

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

Year of activity: **2026**

Name of the report's writer: **Daniel Gat**

Function of the report's writer: **Festival Director**

Mail: **director@tauex.tau.ac.il**

Phones: **+972-544-343347**

Website / Facebook address of the organization: [Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

Number of active participants in the program: **30**

Estimated number of impacted participants: **700**

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 June 2026. 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 Yad Elihayu (260 participants), Ofakim (80), Yeruham (120), Ketora (150), and Kmehin (80).

In addition, the students and filmmakers volunteered in Ofakim with local youth (about 50 participants), 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 tour, we gathered feedback from community representatives to evaluate the project's impact. Building on the 2025 edition, we further deepened the social dimension this year. This emphasis proved highly effective, significantly strengthening the personal bonds between film students and local residents, and creating a more meaningful connection with the communities. Looking ahead, we plan to introduce a preliminary preparation phase before the tour. This advance outreach will allow us to actively engage and mobilize local participants ahead of time, ensuring even deeper community involvement.**

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year: **Moving into the next cycle, our core focus remains on deepening the social and communal impact of the Film Bus, with a continued commitment to supporting Israeli regions affected by the ongoing war. We are currently in the process of appointing the project manager for the upcoming edition. Once the new management team is finalized, we will establish the specific route, partner communities, and local collaborations for the next journey.**

Our overarching vision is steadfast: to leverage the power of cinema to foster healing, resilience, and solidarity. By bringing young filmmakers and remote communities together, the Film Bus will continue to serve as a vital platform for creativity, connection, and shared hope where it is needed most.

Testimonies:

Gidi - Student Filmmaker, Director of "British Pool": "Screening 'British Pool' during the Film Bus tour was an incredibly powerful experience for me. I'll admit I was quite anxious at first about showcasing an LGBTQ+ film in the periphery, but the audience's reaction was absolutely amazing. People were deeply moved, and the Q&A session that followed was filled with beautiful, thoughtful questions. It was a truly wonderful and reassuring journey."

Noa - Film Bus Project Content Director: "Serving as the Content Director for the Film Bus was both challenging and deeply educational. Curation always involves a bit of a gamble, as you can never predict exactly how a specific audience will react to each film. However, seeing the crowd engage so intensely with our selections made the entire experience incredibly rewarding. It was a fantastic lesson in the power of film curation."

Menachem - Resident of Yeruham: "The young filmmakers who visited Yeruham brought an incredible amount of passion and vibrant energy with them. It was wonderful to host them, and they truly brought a lot of light to our community. I later found out that they also spent time working with our local youth during the day, which was an amazing experience for the kids as well. A very moving visit all around."

Orit - Resident of Ketura “Having the Film Bus come to Ketura was a breath of fresh air for our community. It’s not every day we get to have such intimate, open conversations with the next generation of Israeli filmmakers. The diverse stories they brought to our screen sparked wonderful discussions among the residents here, and it reminded us how much art can bring people together, no matter where they live.”

Daniel Gat - Festival Director, Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival

“Managing the festival again this year and seeing the Film Bus in action brought me immense pride and joy. Witnessing the meaningful encounters between our talented students and the warm audiences who welcomed them across the country highlights exactly why this project is so vital. It goes far beyond cinema—it’s about building genuine community and human connection.”