

ENLISTED: WEST BANK TREATMENT- Short
By Noah Smith

In the most dangerous city of the world's most followed conflict, a diverse group of Americans who have volunteered for the Israeli military must figure out how to survive amidst the hatred and violence surrounding them on all sides— during the week. But on the weekends, they get leave to go off-base and party, hook up, relax, and even surf in Tel Aviv.

ENLISTED (8 x 45') follows 2 groups of Americans, one in active duty, one in America about to enlist, as they take us on the adventure of a lifetime and show what happens when the guy and girl next door is suddenly faced with life and death decisions in a strange land where nothing and no one are ever what they seem...

The heartbeat of the show is the constant struggle these young people undergo to square their expectations with reality as well as trying to find their place and fit in amidst a society they look to as their home: the military is supposed to be tough and "masculine," so how do these would-be Rambos react to their commander, a 19-year woman? Or when they are told to guard a garage can? How do they feel when a local finesses them, taking advantage of their foreign status?

David Foster Wallace wrote that one of the most painful experiences is to feel alienated within one's own people and country. Our cast's assumed home will not initially accept them with open arms. It is a rough and tumble place, where there are established perceptions towards Americans, and so our cast must constantly prove themselves before being accepted by their comrades, locals, and, most emotionally, romantic partners, causing doubts among some about whether they really belong in this foreign land.

And yet, as they are faced with these these adversities, our cast will come across instances of personal, unexpected warmth from both strangers, and the friends, the likes of which they have never seen: people they just met inviting them to their homes for weekend meals, bus riders giving them their seats on crowded long-haul buses, acquaintances fighting with cell phone providers about overcharges for them, and more.

Naturally, after conducting night raids, quelling riots, dodging bullets, avoiding bombs, and manning checkpoints, not to mention living in a different culture, it will be hard to pick back up with their friends in the United States. On trips back, our cast will have to figure out how to bridge these new gulfs that have opened between them and their past lives, especially with friends, parents, and siblings.

We have unprecedented access to film these 18-24 year olds in Israel and the Palestinian Territories as they become men and women, in action-packed trials by fire, and face down realities that challenge their, and our, core beliefs about the conflict and what it means to find your true identity, both on the battlefield and in the nightclub.

Audience-wise: 9 out of 10 Americans strongly sympathize with one side or the other

(Brookings Inst.)

2/3 of Americans think the Israel-Arab conflict is a top 5 issue for US national interests. Major U.S. news outlets feature a story from the Holy Land almost every day. This will be the first show featuring English-speaking cast members who act as ambassadors, taking the American and international audience into the conflict as never before.

One last point to mention: despite all the articles and other content about the Bin Laden raid, ZERO DARK THRITY is the definitive account amongst most Americans regarding how the U.S. found the Al-Qaeda head. Early 90's U.S. involvement in Somalia is BLACK HAWK DOWN. Vietnam is any one of the dozens of films about it. Same for WWII. For many, Afghanistan is the documentary RESTREPO and Iraq is GENERATION KILL (based on a true story).

Owing to our access, projected series length, mostly English-speaking/American-focused format and the experience of involved parties on the creative, production, distribution, and Israeli broadcast sides, as well as this American audience preference for visual content, ENLISTED will be the definitive story about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for the next decade, if not longer.

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Contact:
Atar Dekel
Keshet International
atar.dekel@keshet-tv.com
+972 3 7676031
+1 323 452 0619

Noah Smith
Three Hundred Ten Dollar Productions
noah@noahble.com
+1 310 614 9076