**Sapir Academic College - School of Audio and Visual Arts**

Established in 1998, Sapir College is Israel’s largest public academic college with 7,500 students. Located about a mile from the Gaza border, at the entrance to the city of *Sderot*, Sapir is an influential center of higher education and economic resource in the western Negev. The college proudly represents Israel’s determination to continue developing the Negev in spite of adversity—a true expression of the Zionistic vision. The diverse student body reflects a broad spectrum of ethnic groups in Israel including Jews, Bedouins and new immigrants from all over the world, as well as people hailing from a variety of religious backgrounds and political orientations. As a symbolic 'lighthouse' to the region, Sapir expands the local community network by successfully building bridges between different segments of society. The College is the second largest employer in the region, with an economic multiplier effect, generating growth for local businesses by attracting young people to the region.

Sapir College combines academic and technical colleges on one campus. The college offers a wide range of undergraduate degrees including: Computer Science, Business Administration, Economics and Accounting, Industrial Engineering, Logistics, Law, Liberal Arts, Social Work, Human Resources, Culture Studies, Administration and Public Policy, High Tech Marketing, Film Studies, Media and Communications; as well as graduate degrees in Film, Public Administration, Social Work and Human Resources.

About 70% of the students come from underprivileged backgrounds and are the first generation in their families to attend college. Education at Sapir provides these students with an opportunity for economic and social mobility. With the help of the College's Employment Center, graduates have access to a wide range of employment opportunities; many go on to successful careers in their chosen field.

**Sapir Academic College's School of Audio and Visual Arts** was founded in 2001 with 30 students and ten faculty members. Today, it has developed into one of Israel's premier film schools, with 450 students and 150 faculty members, in six different B.A. tracks: filmmaking, television studies, animation, screen writing, music and sound for film, and movement and choreography for stage and screen. The school operates two graduate programs: an M.A. and an M.F.A. In addition, the College also runs a practical track for film and theater technicians.

To date, the school has 820 graduates; over 70% currently work in the film industry in Israel and abroad. Some of the alumni have pursued advanced degrees, while others engage in independent creative ventures. The school's graduates present their work around the globe, winning awards in the world's premier festivals. The success of Sapir College's School of Audio and Visual Arts stems from the vision of its founders and faculty – academics and artists recognized in Israel and abroad.

**Vision**

The Film School's vision is to foster a national and international center of art and culture. The school serves as a hub which combines research with relevant, impactful creativity, exploring artistic, cultural and academic issues in Israel and abroad. Since its founding, the school has focused on the "other" in Israeli society. It creates space for different voices in politics, gender, art and ethnicity. These stories allow us to access the richness of human experience and the deepest pain that only narrative has the power to transform into creation and exploration.

A joint program with the **Lodz Film School in Poland**, which includes an animation workshop with the two schools. Last year, students investigated motifs in the stories of the Polish-Jewish author Bruno Schulz, producing animated films based on his works. This year, the workshop will take place in Sderot.

**Animation Workshop between Sapir College Film School and the Polish National Film Television and Theatre School in Lodz.**

**General:**

In 2016, the School of Audio and Visual Arts and the Lodz Film School embarked on a joint endeavor, which took the form of a cooperative animation workshop inspired by motifs from the work of Polish-Jewish writer Bruno Shultz. The workshop consisted of a two-week long intensive encounter between third-year students of both schools, during which they read Shultz’s work and prepared drawings and vignettes based on his stories.

The workshop took place in Lodz. The students toured the city, photographed scenery and memorable details, and, inspired by local motifs and motifs from Shultz’s stories, wrote the screenplays for four short films, which were produced over those two week.

The artistic encounter of students from different cultures in the context of the work of Bruno Shultz made a deep impression on the participants and deeply affected the artistic approaches in general, and approaches to animation in particular, of both the students and the teaching staff.

The films were screened at the 2016 Cinema South Film Festival. A segment of the films produced in the workshop may be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBgOx5PG4A4&feature=youtu.be>

Both schools, eager to continue working together, have already planned the 2017 workshop, which will be devoted to the work of Stanislaw Lem, another Polish-Jewish writer. The workshop will process motifs inspired by Lem’s stories as the basis for making short animated films.

The work of Stanislaw Lem, one of the greatest Polish authors of all time, is generally classified as science fiction characterized by humor based on sleights of hand, as Lem was the undisputed master of misdirection and legerdemain.

Lem was of Jewish descent but was brought up without any religious education. Nonetheless, his work is affected by Jewish concepts.

The workshop will focus on some of Lem’s short stories, especially the series entitled “Fables for Robots.” Work on the animated shorts to be produced will take place in a similar format to that applied to Shultz’s oeuvre: an introductory lesson to be followed by a two-week encounter between the two art schools at **Sapir Academic College** for the writing and producing of the films.

**Lodz Student Visit to Sapir**

The Sapir Academic College’s School of Audio and Visual Arts would like to host 15 or so students and teachers from Lodz. They will lodge together at guests houses in the neighboring kibbutzim for the two-week joint workshop. They will also visit the holy places in Jerusalem and tour the Dead Sea.

We are committed to hosting our guests fully, similar to the accommodations extended to us when we visited Poland. I would suggest converting the sums to euros or dollars.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hosting at Sapir budget** |  |
|  |  |
| **Hosting expenses** | **Hosting in Israel** |
|  |  |
| **type of expense** | **sub total** |
| **accommodation** |  |
| lodging at a kibbutz  |  ₪ 14,700.00  |
|   |   |
| **meals** |   |
| breakfast |  ₪ 5,000.00  |
| lunch |  ₪ 5,000.00  |
| dinner |  ₪ 6,600.00  |
| special dinners |  ₪ 5,000.00  |
| Transportation |   |
| shuttle from and to airport |  ₪ 3,300.00  |
| attached bus to the dead sea |  ₪ 3,000.00  |
| attached bus to Jerusalem |  ₪ 3,000.00  |
| Tours |   |
| Jerusalem |  ₪ 2,000.00  |
| Dead sea |  ₪ 2,500.00  |
| unexpected expenses |   |
| small cash |  ₪ 1,000.00  |
| unexpected expenses |  ₪ 1,000.00  |
|  |  |
| **total expenses hosting** |  **₪ 52,100.00**  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **flight expenses to Poland** |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **type of expense** | **amount** | **cost** | **sub total** | **total including vat** |  |
| **flight** | **12** | $520 | $6,240.00 | ₪ 24,960 |  |
|  | **0** | $466 | $0.00 | ₪ 0 |  |
| **flight participation** | **10** | **-300** |  **₪ -3,000.00**  | -₪ 3,000 |  |
| **insurance** | **12** |  **$ 1.80**  | **$172.80** | ₪ 605 |  |
|  **embassy flight participation** | **0** |  **$ -**  | **$0.00** | ₪ 0 |  |
|  |  |  |  | ₪ 22,565 |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subtotal expenses** | **₪ 74,665** |

We view this project as part of an ongoing process of cooperation.

In order to build a three-year program that will strengthen the ties between the two schools, we need NIS 100,000 in annual support to cover:

1. The projects developing in tandem with Lodz;
2. Support for documentary animation projects;
3. Student scholarships for filming and editing;
4. Building an international program for Polish students.

The school will see to:

1. Editing the existing materials the association has already gathered;
2. A mobile broadcasting vehicle arriving to document the event the association produces once a year;
3. Polish content that will be presented at the Cinema South Film Festival;
4. A unique workshop on the challenges of nurturing cinematic creativity in the desert.