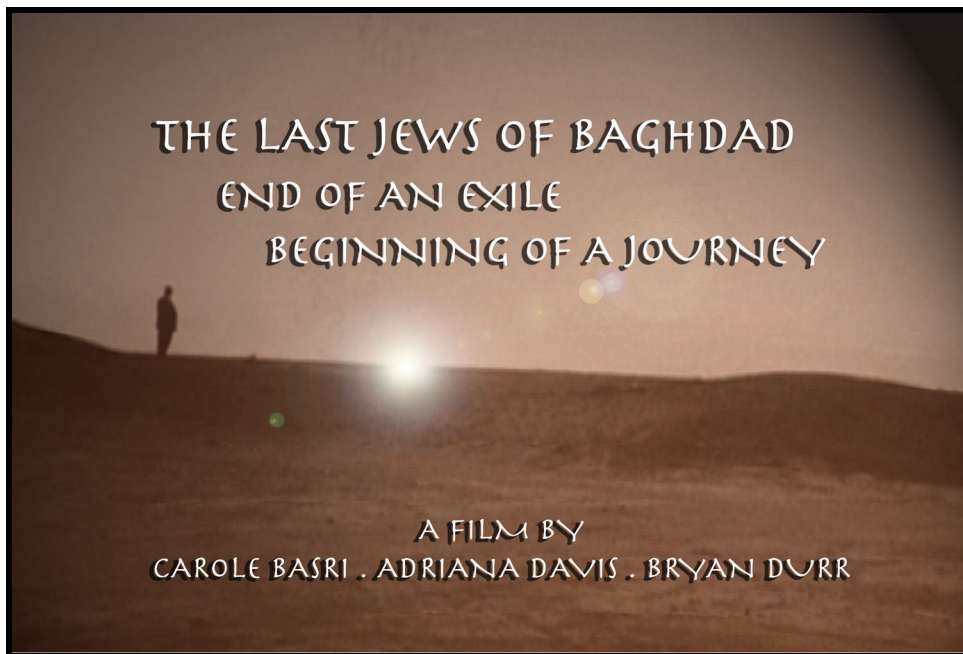




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The Last Jews of Baghdad **End of an Exile; Beginning of a Journey**

Directed and Produced by Carole Basri, Adriana Davis, Bryan Durr
Production Company: D-Squared Media, NYC
USA 105 Minutes Digital Video
Copyright Carole Basri 2005
Release Date: January 2005



At one time Iraq was home to 160,000 Jews. Today just 22 remain.

Take a historical and personal journey into their world of
persecution, torture, escape and exile.

You haven't heard the whole story of Iraq until you meet *The Last Jews of Baghdad*.

Film Summary

Today, only 22 Jews remain in Iraq from a population of 160,000. It is most shocking considering there has been a Jewish community in Iraq since 586 BCE. This film asks the question, “Why did the Iraqi Jews leave?” The answer is found in the discriminatory laws and policies enacted by Iraq’s government and leaders against these formerly important members of Iraqi society who today still consider themselves “Iraqis”. “The Last Jews of Baghdad” offers personal recollections from members of this exiled group, contextualizing the country’s complicated political history. Through the words of those who survived discrimination, persecution and even hangings we are painted a picture of what it meant to be a Jew in Iraq - from joyous picnics on the Tigris to the unbearable terror of life under the Saddam Hussein that came to define their lives.

As Iraq mutates from kingdom to independent state to dictatorship increasingly severe limitations are legally imposed on the Jews leaving them to risk escape and imprisonment in order to survive. With each passing law the community – relabeled “spies” - is placed deeper into an abyss where only isolation and fear exist, while at the same time the government expropriates their property.

Meet the survivors of the bloody 1941 Nazi inspired pogrom against the Jews known as the Fahrud. Hear the palpable fear that permeated the community after the 1948 unjust hanging of Iraq’s most influential Jewish businessman, Shafiq Adas. Experience the lives of those who struggled to survive under restrictions that permitted them no jobs, education or even a telephone. Marvel at the way 120,000 Iraqi-Jews immigrated to Israel from 1950 to 1951 and then lifted themselves from the dismal Ma’abarot camps to create new lives. Viscerally feel the torture, fear and humiliation that were everyday life in Saddam’s Iraq for those Jews who stayed in their beloved, ancestral homes and became... ***The Last Jews of Baghdad.***

This film will have its world premiere at The 9th Annual NY International Sephardic Film Festival on February 9th at 8pm at the Center For Jewish History 15 West 16th Street in New York City. For information about additional screening dates and times please contact **Adriana Davis at D-Squared Media 212-478-1005** or **Carole Basri at 917-822-2447** or visit the official web site for this film www.lastjewsofbaghdad.com.

Please note, Adriana Davis and Carole Basri are both available for speaking engagements to accompany any screening of this film.