**THERE ARE NO LIONS IN TEL AVIV:**

A Discussion with Filmmaker Duki Dror and Susan Barocas

**Description:** The film is the story of the Chief Rabbi of Copenhagen's Jewish community, who would come to be known as Rabbi Doolittle. Rabbi Max Shorenstein arrived in Tel Aviv in 1935 in order to fulfill a longtime dream: to build a zoo and teach the children of Palestine-Eretz Yisrael about the love of animals. His dream had come true and against all odds, the Tel Aviv Zoo became the city's greatest attraction. Envy, greed and corruption by city officials had him banished from the very paradise he himself built. Rabbi Shorenstein is very attracted to people or topics that no one else will deal with such as unnamed, unknown heroes and people who have had or are having a very big impact but which no one notices, or topics that are not commonly dealt with. There are No Lions in Tel Aviv (2019) is one of these stories. Using film clips, Duki will discuss the making of the film and the research done to tell the amazing story behind the Tel Aviv Zoo and its founder.

Susan Barocas is a former director of the Washington Jewish Film Festival and documentary filmmaker. Most recently she co-founded a new project, Savor: A Sephardic Music & Food Experience (savorexperience.com), with the singer/songwriter Sarah Aroeste. Susan is also a chef and food writer, and served as guest chef at three of the Obamas' White House Seders.

Duki Dror Darwish, born in Tel Aviv and educated at UCLA and Columbia College in Chicago, is an internationally award-winning documentary filmmaker. His extensive body of work spreads over multiple topics and forms - character-driven journeys, experiment biographies, investigative docs and historical epics, have won him international recognition and success. With acute sensitivity, innovative style and engaging storytelling, Dror creates parables that convey human dilemmas and challenge the viewer's conventions.