



**Special “Pedagogy” Award
of the Conference of Regional Film Services**
(in the framework of the TOURA D'OR 1994 contest)

Category: Informational Films and Documentaries

Walking The Holy Land
(VSO and Tourism Concern, 12 minutes, English, 2001)

Judging on the basis of the three TOURA D'OR contest criteria, out of a possible 105 points the jury gave 80 points to the film WALKING THE HOLY LAND.

Under the aspect of presenting a “particularly interesting, convincing, educational approach“, the film received 33 out of a maximum of 35 possible points.

The film shows a group of young students from Brandenburg on a visit to Israel. The young people are blunt and very direct in expressing their motives for the journey, as well as their experience in meeting the people of Israel. The group recognises the open kindness of the young Israeli generation towards the Germans, and learn from it. A conversation with a survivor of the Holocaust as well as a visit to the Yad Vashem memorial result in intensive analyses of an ill-fated part of common history, and connections and responsibilities become clear. The film sensitively shows the young Germans' emotional consternation.

Through discussions with young Israelis in the military service, the young people also make efforts to improve their understanding of the political situation in the Middle East. “Before, I used to think that one side was guilty and the other was not. Now I know that everyone is a little right and a little wrong.“

The film convincingly shows what kind of self-critical reflections can be provoked in young people who undertake such a journey of encounters. At the end, the words of one of the female participants hit the point: “Now I really feel like intensely experiencing something like this in other places, too.“