



Dina (Ronit Elkabetz) and Lieutenant-Colonel Tewfiq (Sasson Gabai).

Dry humour amid tension in desert



WRITER and director Eran Kolirin is a film-maker to watch out for.

Witty, delightful, charming, touching and insightful, *The Band's Visit (Bikur Ha-Tizmoret)* is about people and their doubts, naivety, regrets, bewilderment and loneliness.

Invited to play at the opening of an Arab Cultural Centre in Israel, the eight members of the Alexandria Ceremonial Police Orchestra arrive in Israel from Egypt but there is no one at the airport to meet them.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tewfiq (Sasson Gabai) gets the youngest member of the band Khaled (Saleh Bakri), an English speaker, to find out where they are supposed to be going.

After a lengthy bus ride, they arrive in small town in the desert.

Lined up at the bus stop, all in their sky blue uniforms, the three occupants of the cafe opposite cannot contain their sniggers.

But the cafe's manager Dina (Ronit Elkabetz) accepts their Egyptian money in return for food.

The band members discover they are in the wrong place and there won't be another bus until tomorrow.

Dina can accommodate two of them, so Tewfiq nominates himself and Khaled as punishment for landing them here.

The rest bunk with Itzik's (Rubi Moscovich) family, which creates conflicts and cultural tensions.

THE BAND'S VISIT (MA)

Directed by: Eran Koliran
Starring: Sasson Gabai, Ronit Elkabetz, Saleh Bakri

Screening: Joondalup Pines until March 2