



# Gay Days



## Tech things:

Make sure that

- the DVD player can play the disc,
- that the projector works,
- that you have a screen (films never look good simply projected on to a wall)
- and that the speakers are powerful enough for everyone to hear (LCDs rarely have strong speakers built in)

## But before doing anything...

Make sure you watch the film yourself, and run through the questions for yourself. This isn't the kind of activity where you need to remain detached and objective. You are allowed and even encouraged to have an opinion – not in order to force it on others, but in order to find your own commitment to the subject. Running through the activity first, will also allow you to make the appropriate decisions for your group about productive avenues of discussion.



Important: At the end of the film, let the credits roll right until the very end, before turning the lights on. There are two good reasons for this. First, it is always valuable to give credit to all the people involved in the creation of a piece of art. But more importantly, the credits allow time for the swirling emotions and opinions to begin to settle. It is good to allow people to sit alone with their responses to a piece of art, before 'forcing' them to share their thoughts with others.

## After the screening, the guided questions.

[Depending on the size of the audience and their familiarity with each other, you might choose to run the discussion with everyone, or split into groups, or even call out the questions and ask people to respond in pairs.]

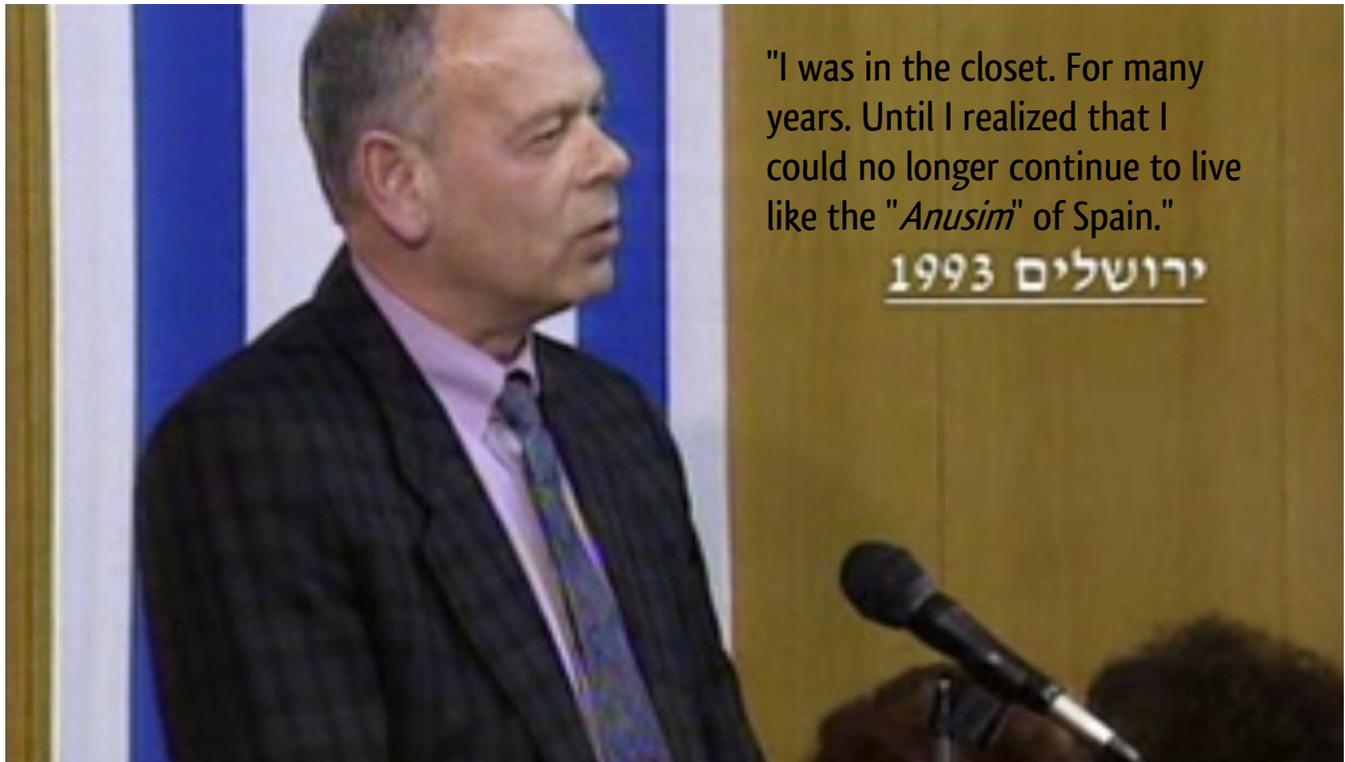
### 1. Key "gathering" questions:

- Having seen the movie, what is your "question mark", and what is your "exclamation mark"?  
[As in, what question are you left with after the screening, and what leaves you surprised?]
- In what way do you see the issues being dealt in the film as universal issues that the gay community has had to deal with anywhere in the world, and in what way do you see them as specific to Israel?
- Do you see this film as a celebration of Israel's relationship to LGBT issues?  
[Does the film tell the story of how Israel succeeded in reaching the right decisions, or does it tell the story of an exhausting fight against a reactionary establishment? Can it be both? How does it feel to be celebrating something to do with Israel? Don't expect yourself to provide any definitive answers to any of these questions. Just work hard to give conversation a home...]





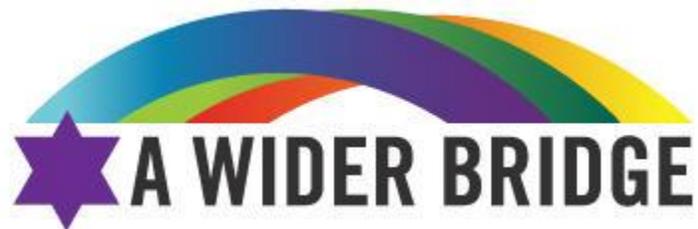
# A WIDER BRIDGE



In his famous speech to the Knesset in 2003, Uzi Even drew a resonant analogy to living in the closet, by referring to the "Anusim" of Spain. In 16<sup>th</sup> Century Spain, many Jews would practice their religion in secret, for fear of the Inquisition. Generations of "Anusim", sometimes known by the more perjorative "Marranos", continued to practice Judaism in secret, such that many did not know that most Jews do not light Friday night candles inside a darkened cupboard...

Even's deliberate use of an archaic analogy will have struck the historically-aware Knesset members.

- Does it strike you, or is it now a reference to a by-gone age that is no longer relevant to Jews?
- Have you ever felt "in the closet" as a Jew?
- Have you ever felt "in the closet" as to your views about Israel?



### 3. Bringing things to a close

Gay Days brings together some of the key heroes in the fight for the quality of gay life in Israel.

- Out of all the characters mentioned or interviewed, which one touched you most? Why?
- Were you to make a short film about the history of the gay community in the States, which five people would you insist should be featured?

A Wider Bridge works to bring the LGBTQ communities of Israel and North America closer together. Our programs include educational and cultural activities here in the U.S., including this film series, LGBTQ trips to Israel, and our online magazine, [www.awiderbridge.org](http://www.awiderbridge.org).

A Wider Bridge commissioned these study guides from Makom, and consulted fully in their development. Makom is the think-and-do tank for adult Israel engagement. You can find Makom at [www.makomisrael.org](http://www.makomisrael.org) and at [facebook.com/makomisrael](https://facebook.com/makomisrael).

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