

THE SHOCK-PACKED STORY OF TODAY'S YOUNG ADDICTS!

Oren Shai's

HEAVY SOUL



<http://www.rockingoren.com/heavysoul/>

HEAVY SOUL

1959 - In a world of teenage lust and twisted morals, it's hard to keep one's innocence. With a simple roll of the dice, the child becomes a predator.

The saint, a sinner.

RUNNING TIME: 14:00 minutes.

ORIGINAL FORMAT: Super 16mm. Color / B&W.

SCREENING FORMATS: DigiBeta

Website: <http://www.rockingoren.com/heavysoul/>

On IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0800062/>

HEAVY SOUL SYNOPSIS:

At the tender age of 18, Dakota Thompson became a real life junkie. Now, as she is being treated for her addiction, Dakota's life and downfall flash before her eyes. Watch her, as she struggles to keep herself pure in a world of desperate teens. Watch her, as she fails to fight peer pressure and descend into addiction. Watch her, and ask yourself, could you have saved Dakota Thompson?

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Producer / Director:

Oren Shai.

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Website: <http://www.rockingoren.com>

Hi-Res Press Photos can be downloaded from:

<http://www.rockingoren.com/heavysoul/press.html>

AWARDS AND SCREENINGS:

* **"Best Narrative" & "Best of the Festival"** Awards at **The Artsfest Film Festival**. 2006.

* **"Outstanding Achievement in Directing"** from **The School of Visual Arts**. 2005.

- July 2006 – The Jerusalem Film Festival.
- June 2006 – The Brooklyn International Film Festival.
- May 2006 – Artfest. Harrisburg, PA. *
- May 2006 – The Brooklyn Underground Screening Series.
- April 2006 – hi/lo Film Festival, San Francisco.
- March 2006 – **SXSW** (South by Southwest) Film Festival. Austin, Texas.
- March 2006 – Anthology Film Archives, New York.
- Dec 2005 – Galapagos Art Space, New York.
- Dec 2005 – Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- Nov 2005 – The Miami Short Film Festival.

SELECTED REVIEWS:

"The screaming immediacy of "Heavy Soul" characterizes who Oren Shai will continue to be as a filmmaker... He's got it. I don't think the '50s have ever been quite this extreme in any film and this is some trip."

- **Rory L. Aronsky, Film Threat (05/22/2006)**

[http://www.filmthreat.com/index.php\\$section=reviews&Id=9002](http://www.filmthreat.com/index.php$section=reviews&Id=9002)

"Oren Shai genre-hops – from black-and-white Reefer Madness-inspired educational films to color-saturated Lynchian scenes – to tell the story of a young girl and her bad trip down the road of addiction."

- **James Renovitch, The Austin Chronicle. Vol. 25 No. 29B. Friday, March 17, 2006**

http://www.austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2006-03-17/screens_roundup23.html

"Oren Shai knows how to draw attention to a film... it is an accomplished, stylish, well-made short with a star-turn by Sally Conway."

- **Jonathan Marlow, The Greencine Daily Blog. March 20, 2006**

<http://daily.greencine.com/archives/001706.html>

"In these days when virtually everyone has a chance to make a film (which itself is a great thing), it's easy to point out where the talent is. Right now I point out Oren Shai."

- **Esa Linna, EMVG**

<http://www.emvg.net/shorts/heavysoul.php>

"Shot on 16mm on a budget of \$10,000, "Heavy Soul" looks better than some features that cost millions... Will somebody with bankroll please give Oren Shai a budget to make a feature film?... Oren Shai is the real deal. He could very well be the next Quentin Tarantino."

- **Chad Clinton Freeman at Pollystaffle.com**

<http://www.pollystaffle.com/independent/heavysoul.shtml>

"Heavy Soul in all its weirdness feels immensely genuine as if it'd jumped out of the fifties era and hardly ever looks like a true Felix Vasquez Jr. for

- **Felix Vasquez Jr. for Cinema-Crazed. April 12, 2006.**

<http://www.cinema-crazed.com/heavy-soul.htm>

"Very stylized, a light hearted romp nonetheless that was nothing short of deranged fun."

- **The Austin Daze. No. 58.**

"Heavy Soul successfully treads the fine line between parodying the sensational nature of the genre while still treating addiction as a serious and disturbing issue"

- **Star C. Foster, Monsters At Play. May 30, 2006.**

<http://www.monstersatplay.com/review/dvd/h/heavysoul.php>

DIRECTOR'S BIO:

Born in Israel in 1981, Oren Shai completed his first short film, 'ROCKING' - a tale of 1950's delinquents who terrorize a mutation of an Israeli suburb, in 1999. In 2000, he co-founded 'Baboon', a critically acclaimed group of independent filmmakers, and had two successful screening programs in cinematheques around the country. During 2000-2001, developed a TV show to the Israeli channel YTV, based on the short directed for 'Baboon', "Moongir & Bernard". In 2001 Oren moved to New York to pursue film studies at the School of Visual Arts. During the four years to come he has completed 4 short films, music videos to Israeli and International artists Charlie Megira and Shy Nobleman and an MTV2 Promo. Most recently he was presented with the School's 'Outstanding Achievement in Directing' 2005 award for 'Heavy Soul', his thesis film that has since screened in various venues in New York, San Francisco, Austin, Santa Fe and Miami. Following great artistic minds such as Russ Meyer and Billy Childish - and with a life-long obsession to the 1950's, he strives to make his films authentic pieces of Rocknroll...

Recent Filmography:

[Heavy Soul](#) (USA, 2005)

Director, Producer, Writer, Editor

[Shy Nobleman – Baby In The Rain](#) (Israel / USA, 2005)

Director, Producer, Writer.

[Yesterday at Ten past Six...](#) (USA, 2004)

Director, Producer, Writer, Editor.

[Charlie Megira - Dynamite Rock](#) (Israel, 2003)

Producer, Director, Writer, Editor.

[Straight Edge: MTV2 Promo](#) (USA 2002)

Director, Editor, Co-Writer.

STARRING:

Sally Conway as Dakota Thompson

With:

Guil Fisher as The Narrator

Brittany Kubat As Judy

Mike Horn as Jimmy James

Joe Cabatit as Hal Grover

Asaf Kolin as The Bad Man

Featuring **Pete Ludovico** of the Found cats as Johnny B. (courtesy of Golly Gee Records).

CREW LIST:

Produced, Written, Edited and Directed by
Oren Shai

Director of Photography:
Ryan Gould

Assistant Director:
Arnon Moskowitz

Production Designer:
Elizabeth Cipollina

Set Dresser
Sahira Nair

Wardrobe:
Annie Brown
Junio Anthes-Moody

Hair Stylist:
Amita Moticka

On-line Editor:
Michael Horn

Soundtrack:
Charlie Megira

- "The Stakato Fever", "Wall of Death", "The Cootchie Mama Swingers", "Tomorrow Has Gone" & "Golgatha Rock."

Additional music by The Found Cats & The Crystalaires.

Sound Design:
Oscar Zambrano for Zampol Productions.