



## **BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL**

WHERE IS ANNE FRANK (12A)

Director: Ari Folman

Belgium/Luxembourg/France/Netherlands/Israel, 2021, 1hr 40mins

Israeli director Ari Folman (*Waltz with Bashir, 2008*) brings us his latest animation, *Where is Anne Frank*; an adaptation of the diary that Anne Frank kept from 1942 to 1944 while her family lived in hiding in the Amsterdam annex, which has now become a famous museum.

Kitty, the 14-year-old imaginary friend to whom Anne Frank addressed her famous diary, wakes up in modern day Amsterdam believing her friend is still alive. From this moment onwards we dive into an enthralling journey as the fiery teenager tries to find Anne, convinced that she is living in today's city. As she does so, she becomes a witness to the Frank family's last months in the Holocaust and to Europe after the Second World War.

Folman retells this powerful piece of historical literature with bold animation and heartfelt sensitivity, aiming to build a bridge between the plight of past and present refugees. When asked about his animation technique, Folman says "This movie is the first to tell the story of Anne Frank entirely in drawings. We are talking about 159,000 individual drawings that have been created in 15 countries. This technique infused the film with a vibrant, lively feel and the story flows without demanding any effort from viewers. To accomplish this, we did develop a wholly new technique by combining static backgrounds with classic, animated figures in 2-D. Specifically, we recreated the "Hinterhaus" as a miniature model. This allowed us to create images of real scenery recorded by actual cameras. We then placed drawn figures into these backgrounds as animation. This is a true innovation. Nobody has ever done anything like this before in cinema".

Preview courtesy of Altitude Film Entertainment

Notes compiled by Theo Quinto-Harbour.