

November 18, 2010

# Meet the Faces of Israel

Written by Daniel Reiser, Posted in [Student Life](#)

Last night, Hillel partnered with Emory Students for Israel (ESI) to present the Atlanta premier of the critically acclaimed documentary *Faces of Israel*. The film explores what it means to have a Jewish state. Do the two characterizations



— democratic state and Jewish state — work well together? What happens when they don't?

The event, which drew an audience of about 100 students, faculty, and community members, was organized by **Charlie Punia** (B'12). During the screening, the film's director, **Amy Beth Oppenheimer**, led an interactive discussion on what it means to have a Jewish state. Audience members had chance to respond to key issues in the film, share their own opinions, and ask questions to make for a provocative discussion.

*Photos and more after the break*

*“Amy's presentation was extremely informative and relatable. There is a continuous back-and-forth between Israel's progressive society and religious traditions that makes the place so dynamic and thought-provoking.”*  
—**Gail Axelrod (B'11), Co-president, Emory Students for Israel**

*Faces of Israel* is Amy's first documentary film. While Amy's passion for film is new, her love of Israel dates back to her first trip there as a young child. Growing up, Amy experienced two distinct types of Israel programming: one that focused on political advocacy, dialogue groups and the conflict, and another that offered falafel and Israeli music on Israel Independence Day. Amy felt that both types of programming had their place, but there wasn't a lot of meaningful content offered in between. One of her motivations in creating *Faces of Israel* was to create an internal discussion piece for the community to explore the nature of the Jewish