Margarita Kirilkina

- (2) A genre of the film Band's Visit could be defined as a comedy, as the most scenes there are based on humor. (6) But at the same time we could say that it is a political comedy, because that humor is constructed by stereotypes of Jews-Arabs relationships and their prejudices about each other, which are ironized in the film. Those comic situations appears often in collision of views of Jews and Egyptians characters. The most representative one is a scene when Tawfiq and Dina goes together to the bistro and after have a dialog in a park. We see how strong are Dina's stereotypes of "true Arab" man "who must have many children", and how she is surprised when she realize that Tawfiq has (or better to say had) just one child. Moreover it brakes even the romantic atmosphere of the evening. And at the same time we watch Dina from Tawfiq perspective and we see her by his eyes as absolutely dissolute woman behaving vulgar.
- (9) Nevertheless those stereotypes brakes in a context of younger generation. In a scene when Halled teaches Pappi how to treat the girl, roles changes and Egyptian guy becomes more liberated then Jew one, that turns previous settings up side down and we see that certain values are not stereotypical implement of one group, but those groups with those certain values doesn't exist anymore. What was symptomatic just for one "group" could exist in another "group" also and vice versa.
- (3) So following that logic we could say that the theme of the film Band's visit is modern relationships between Jews and Arabs based on archaic stereotypes which have to be overcome. When Dina and Tawfiq becomes more closer in their intimate talk in the night, their prejudices about each other erases, they start to understand each other very well, even if they have to speak foreign language. Opening their eyes they see that the other one is not just how he was imagining him, but the same complex human full of suffers and also joys. The same things happens between other separated members of the band and locals living in Beit Htikva, who at the beginning don't accept lost Egyptians, but after became closer with them, start to take them just as a humans without any ethnic stereotypes. And actually the arabic band's visit to Israel doesn't change anything in general, in the end they are happily playing a concert in Petach-Tikva, but their occasional personal visits homes of Israelis influence their both (and also viewers) perception of each other. In this way the name Band's Visit could relate not just to country visiting but also people's homes.