



# INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Quality Israeli movies have universal appeal because they depict vivid, believable characters and the complexities of the relationships between them. The characters may operate against the backdrop of political situations and social norms not found in other parts of the world. Nevertheless, while watching interactions between characters, viewers will be able to clearly identify with the basic human emotions and chemistry which play themselves out in Israeli culture, both when it comes to serious issues and also in day-to-day life.

In *Walk on Water*, a web of unexpected relationships sheds light on a host of serious issues which, through the identities of the characters, become intertwined, such as Israeli-Palestinian relations, Holocaust retribution and homosexuality. *Wisdom of the Pretzel* provides a window into the lives of young people in Tel Aviv, their endless (if not always successful) pursuit of romantic relationships, their struggle to determine the meaning of life and the painful process of growing up.

## QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

- 1 How can you relate with the characters in these movies? Do you think their relationships seem realistic?
- 2 How are these movies “Israeli” in subject matter and content? How are they universal?
- 3 In what ways are the types of relationships and the way they form and develop in a society indicative of the society as a whole? What can you learn from Israeli society from these movies?
- 4 How do the characters change and develop as a result of the relationships they forge in these movies?