

Beyond the walls (MeAchorei Hasorragim) Uri Barabash - 1984

Criminals and pro-Palestinian political prisoners meet in a prison. Firstly the Arab-Israeli conflict is intensified by violent nature of this environment, but after series of incidents both sides realize, that their hatred is being used against them by the guards and that the head of the guards is ready to break any rules in his power games. Eventually a strike is organized, in which the inmates prove, that the manipulation of the head of the guards no longer works on them.

9. How do you understand the ending of the film?

I would say, that the last scene is in a sense emancipation scene. The prisoners are not freed totally, they are not freed from the prison and we cannot know what results will their protest actually bring, but still the scene express a breakdown of some techniques of power, which were used (or rather misused) to rule them. This is expressed by combination of several, more or less common, devices. Firstly a plan of the head of the guards (how to break the resistance) is revealed to spectator by omnipresent narration in advance, so he could know, what is the meaning of an unexpected visit. Then a conflict inside the character, who is supposed to break the resistance because of the visit, is expressed mainly by acting, but there are some more subtle techniques used literally in the background. The wall in the background behind the unexpected visit was painted in a contrast colors: one half of the wall was yellow and the second was blue. And this play of colors was then developed when the character decided and went back to a cell, where he paused before the blue wall – at that moment the tension of contrast was gone, the decision was made. Later, when the character went back to a hall to send the visit away, the visitors were shot in different angle, so the background was no longer split in half between contrast colors.