

They Changed My Life

Ma'ariv newspaper, Nov 3 1995.

8. Old Aunt China

One Morning Hayim Hefer asked me if he could screen my film *Old Aunt China* at the Hammam club, in Jaffa, that night. I told him I doubted whether the film would suit the place: Neither Jacques Prevert, who wrote me the prologue, nor Germaine Tailleferre who composed the music, nor even Jean-Pierre Rampal, playing the flute, suited the atmosphere of the Hammam. But Hayim insisted – "We want the Hammam to be also a cultural club, and that includes good movies".

At night, during the screening, there was shouting and booing. Dan Ben-Amotz, the moderator of the event, was furious. Yigael Tumarkin got furious too. Nehama Hendel, the singer, shouted "But Dan, you can't make the audience watch what they don't want to!" Ben-Amotz replied, "Whoever wants to leave can have their tickets refunded". Not many did because the lights went on, and people didn't want to be identified with anti-culture.

The screening began again. When the film ended, Shoshana Damari went on stage and opened with these words, - "Well, after 'all that art' I'll sing *Kalaniyot* "(Anemones). She, of course, couldn't guess that I was a great admirer of hers and of that song. For me, Shoshana Damari was the Israeli Yma Sumac, the great South American Singer.

I walked all the way back home from Jaffa to Tel Aviv, feeling like those who, having faced alone a hostile audience, come out of it reinforced.

(Courtesy of *Maariv* Newspaper)

For the full article see:

[David Perlov, "They Changed My Life"](#), David Perlov introduces his cultural milestones, *Ma'ariv* newspaper, Nov 3 1995.