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...The heart of Jenin, A German documentary, was also screened in the first week of the (Jerusalem) film festival. It tells the story of Ahmad Khatib, 12 years old, who was shot to death two years ago by IDF soldiers while carrying a toy gun. Six of Ahmad's organs were donated to transplant by his family. The protagonist of the film, directed by Marcus Vetter and Leon Geller, is the Father's child, Ismail Khatib. Khatib's character is impressive and captivating. His restrained presence gives the film its immense humane volume.

The film, which is hard to watch without a throat choking with tears, tells the story of Ahmad's death and its consequences. In the second part of the film the father goes to meet some of the children that carry his son's organs, including a girl from an ultra orthodox family. Her father hesitates for a long time whether to meet the father of the boy that saved his girl's life. When the meeting occurs, the atmosphere is loaded with mutual fear and embarrassment. "The Heart of Jenin" is a simple and not an especially sophisticated film. But that is exactly the reason why its emotional straightforwardness works, mostly avoiding sentimentality and sticky kitsch.

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