

Documentary Script : Sound and Silence

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In a few months Tamar's life will be completely changed. She will start hearing sounds she has never heard before, a new range of sounds, richer and more colorful.

In three weeks from now Tamar will be operated and two Cochlear Implants will be implanted in both her ears, and hopefully, after a long period of recovery, her hearing Abilities will be regained.

Question: Are you afraid of the operation?

Tamar: Slightly, I fear spiders more

Question: What do you fear most?

Tamar: That it is going to hurt, and that I will hear with both my ears.

Tamar, a ten and a half years old charming, beautiful girl was born with a very serious hearing problem. The left ear was slightly working, while the right one wasn't at all. When she was 2 years old, her parents took her to the U S and there she had the Cochlear implantation. At that time very few children had this operation. Her problem was not completely solved, music was not heard properly, but it saved her from complete deafness.

Tamar: Do you see this picture?

I love it the most. It's me and dad before the operation.

Tamar has been growing up in a perfectly normal environment, getting along pretty well with her partly hearing ears. She has acquired her speaking abilities using her hearing capabilities (her mother worked with her), and she didn't have to learn to communicate using the signs language. Her friends got used to her. She wore a hearing device around her ear which was connected to a sound processor belted around her waist which transmitted the sounds to the implant. Everything was working quite well until a year and a half ago. The implant had gradually stopped functioning and that made her learning experience more and more difficult. She hears less and less, she cannot join her friends during breaks anymore. Today it is very difficult for her to talk to more than one person in the same time and she cannot talk on the phone as she used to do.

Her friends have started to laugh at her when she asks "what" all the time and she feels she is ignored by them most of the time. She has become more and more isolated in her silent world. Her parents have decided that time is short and that a new operation is inevitable. If Tamar is not having the operation in the near future she will become completely deaf, without her old friends and incapable to connect with the deaf people because she does not know their language! The doctor's advice is to have the operation during the summer holiday so she will have all the time she needed to recover.

Tamar is afraid of the operation and she tries not to think too much about the future. Sometimes when she is very sad she takes off the hearing device and disconnects herself from her reality.

Tamar: Do you know what I hear when I take off the hearing device?

What?

Tamar: I hear the voice of a girl who is there inside me and wants to play with me.

One of Tamar's favorite place to play is the tree house . There she has fun with her sick dog and her cats ,with no worries connected with her hearing problems.

She built the house together with her father, her older sister Maayan and her grandmother. Tamar' grandparents own a carpentry studio and since she was 5 she likes to work with wood. Her room is full of various peaces of furniture she has made in the studio.

Tamar: In the carpentry studio you work in silence you do not need to speak at all

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The operation Tamar is going to have is quite revolutionary and very complicated. They are going to change the old implant and in the same time implant an additional one in her other ear, through which she has never heard before. There are only few children in the world who have had this certain operation. In Israel there are two girls, twins, friends of Tamar's , and they are the ones who explain to Tamar about the operation . The twins told Tamar about the preparations before the operation which includes shaving Tamar's beautiful hair and the heavy headaches after the operation.

Tamar:You know what I love about myself? My long hair. My mother tells me that after the operation It will grow back as beautiful as before .

After the operation Tamar will not hear at all for awhile , and then during the long recovering weeks she will have to learn to use the two implants. If Tamar's operation will succeed her life will be changed completely. There is also a small chance that the implantation will succeed only partially, and then only one implant will function .The operation can be a failure too, and then Tamar will be deaf for the rest of her life.

The film will follow the little girl during the biggest drama of her life. Is she going to live a life of silence or a life of sound.

### The concept of the film

The film will consist of 15 scenes ,before the operation, the operation and the recovery. The film as it is now presented has an optimistical end , if different things happen we will follow the story as it develops.

1. The first scene shows Tamar preparing herself for the operation , we see her shaving her hair and we hear her talking about the operation that will save her from being deaf.
2. Tamar is in the classroom trying to listen to the teacher , and having problems hearing her.
3. During the break Tamar will tell us about the hearing device about her problems with her friends , and we follow her back to classroom , alone.
4. Tamar is at home, she shows us her room, her garden, her hobbies, the carpentry studio , she will tell us more about the operation .
5. Tamar and her mother Dalia are looking through pictures of Tamar as a baby. We will hear now about her first operation, and the way they found out about her deafness.
6. In this scene we will see Tamar playing a dancing game with the computer. Her sister is better at this because she can hear the music, and this drives Tamar crazy.
7. We see Tamar in her tree house , taking off her hearing device, all alone in her silent world. Her mother tries to call her to dinner, but Tamar cannot hear.
8. She meets the twin girls and asks them about the operation.
9. The getting ready for the operation ,the shaving of the hair , saying good bye to her parents, entering the operating room.
10. The operating room, we talk with the doctor about her chances, her sleeping face, and the parents waiting outside .
11. Shortly after the operation in the room at the hospital, she talks with us through a hardboard, writes down her feelings.
12. Tamar is at home. She cannot watch TV, cannot listen to the radio, she only works in the silent carpentry studio with her grandparents. She cannot speak, her friends the twins come to visit her.
13. Tamar is with a speech and hearing therapist who teaches her how to use the two implants ,  
and get friendly with the new sounds she starts to hear .  
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14. Tamar with her sister, new sounds, dance , music, new reality.
15. Tamar at school, regular student, very active in class, plays football in the school yard.