

THE 29TH ANNUAL TORONTO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL JUNE 3-13



Escape.
Explore.
Experience.

TJFF2021

TJFF2021 ONLINE PRESENTS OVER 60 FILMS

—including 1 World Premiere, 4 International Premieres, 5 North American Premieres, 17 Canadian Premieres and 11 Ontario Premieres—with something for everyone...
offering larger-than-life tales about Jewish life on Earth and beyond...

...featuring beloved icons Leonard Cohen, Carl Reiner, Shira Haas, Bruno Ganz, Philip Roth, Maureen Lipman, Robin Williams, Raymonde El Bidaoia, Ed Asner, Amy Irving, Saul Bellow, Vincent Cassel, and Red Buttons.

FILM SELECTION

Pick your films here or visit TJFF.COM for more information and schedule additions and changes that may occur. **All Festival films are accessible to view in the province of Ontario, Canada.**

ORDER TICKETS

**ONLINE ANYTIME AT TJFF.COM or
BY PHONE at 416-324-9121**

May 12 – June 2 12PM – 6PM

May 3 – June 13 12PM – 8PM

PRICES (HST included)

\$12 Household Ticket

\$15 Household Ticket with food bank donation*

\$5 Featurette Household Ticket

\$8 Featurette Household Ticket with food bank donation*

TJFF2021 ALL ACCESS PASS

\$200 (Value: \$428). With a pass you will have access to watch **ALL** films presented online at **TJFF2021**

Have more questions about how it all works?

Visit tjff.com/faq

FREE SCREENINGS

All free events require tickets that may be ordered from TJFF.COM. Tickets are subject to availability. One ticket per household / per free event.

*TJFF GIVE-BACK INITIATIVE



Please join us, in helping **The Stop Community Food Centre** and **Mazon Canada** continue the vital work they do in feeding the hungry in our community.

You will have the option to donate a portion of the ticket price to support these organizations when you checkout.

ZOOM Q&As

All live Zoom Q&As are free of charge to attend. Access to the TJFF Zoom Site is available at TJFF.COM. Recordings of all Q&As will be posted to TJFF.COM for future viewing.

TRY IT OUT!

Order a ticket for the **FREE** short film **Golden Gym** to configure your preferred viewing set-up.
Visit TJFF.COM/TEST for more details.

THERE ARE SO MANY VIEWING OPTIONS FOR ENJOYING THE FESTIVAL FILMS

Watch on your television using:



...or connect your computer/mobile device using an HDMI cable



TECH SUPPORT Available BY PHONE at 416-324-9121

MAY 12 - JUNE 2 12PM - 6PM & JUNE 3 - JUNE 13 12PM - 8PM

ORDER TICKETS ONLINE FROM TJFF.COM OR CALL 416-324-9121

ALL FILMS AVAILABLE FOR A FIXED
2-DAY (48HR) VIEWING WINDOW,
EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE NOTED.

Zoom Q&A Schedule for all
listings available at TJFF.COM

Q&A = Zoom Q&As

CC = Closed Captioning available for
computer viewing

FREE = FREE ticketed screenings

 = ASL interpreter present at Q&A

Subscribe at **TJFF.COM**
for updates on year-round
programming
and **J-Flix.com** additions.

FRIDAY, JUNE 4 - SATURDAY, JUNE 5



DESERT TESTED / SUSITA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2020, 84 MIN

DIRECTOR: AVI WEISSBLEI

An entertaining glimpse of Israel in the 1960s and 70s that traces the fascinating rise and fall of Yitzhak Shubinsky, the creator of the Susita, the car designed to generate an Israeli automobile industry. In the annals of Israeli innovation, the Susita is a rare but notable failure.

WITH: A FRIENDLY MAN (22 MIN)

Q&A

THURSDAY, JUNE 3 - FRIDAY, JUNE 4

OPENING FILM



SHELTER

WORLD PREMIERE

CANADA 2020, 88 MIN

DIRECTOR: RON CHAPMAN

Toronto's standing as one of the world's most successful multicultural cities is due in no small part to the efforts of a group of entrepreneurial Jewish immigrants.

Anticipating the need for affordable, quality rental housing after the post-War immigration boom, these resourceful businessmen were instrumental in shaping the city we know today.



CC

Q&A



LEBANON - BORDERS OF BLOOD / LEBANON GVULOT HADAM

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL / GERMANY 2021, 106 MIN

DIRECTOR: DUKI DROR

Currently on the brink of collapse, the history of Lebanon is one of ongoing tragedy. Duki Dror (*Inside the Mossad*) expertly distills a century of Lebanese history in this comprehensive documentary with an impressive array of interviewees from multiple sides of the geopolitical spectrum.

Q&A

CENTREPIECE FILM



Photo Credit: Samantha Falco

LUNE

CANADIAN PREMIERE

Q&A

★ WINNER
MICKI MOORE ★

CANADA 2020, 107 MIN

DIRECTORS: AVIVA ARMOUR-OSTROFF & ARTURO PEREZ TORRES

Winner of the Audience Award for Narrative Feature at Cinequest 2021.

Aviva Armour-Ostroff delivers a mesmerizing performance as Miriam, a bipolar South African woman living in Toronto in 1994. She is eager to return to South Africa to vote for the recently-freed Nelson Mandela. But her mania escalates when she meets her teenage daughter's boyfriend.



MASEL TOV COCKTAIL

CANADIAN PREMIERE

GERMANY 2020, 30 MIN

DIRECTOR: ARKADIJ KHAET & MICKEY PAATZSCH

A Russian-Jewish teen in Germany offers a fierce comic take on modern Jewish life and the hypocritically tolerant way in which his world works.

FRIDAY, JUNE 4 - SUNDAY, JUNE 6



LABYRINTH OF PEACE/FRIEDEN

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Q&A

SWITZERLAND 2020, 6 X 50 MIN

DIRECTOR: MIKE SCHAEER

Episodes 1 - 3 - Friday, June 4 - Sunday, June 6

Episodes 4 - 6 - Friday, June 11 - Sunday, June 13

An epic portrait of an industrial family dynasty inspired by true yet little-known events. This gripping six-part miniseries and family saga effectively challenges the myth of Switzerland's neutrality during the War. Looking towards a bright postwar future, three young Swiss people discover that their future success depends on ignoring or actively colluding with former war criminals.

Both Parts available for 72 hour viewing window.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5 - SUNDAY, JUNE 6



BECOMING NAKUSET

CANADA 2020, 12 MIN

FREE

Q&A

DIRECTOR: VICTORIA ANDERSON-GARDNER

An intimate documentary about Nakuset, a survivor of the Sixties Scoop of Indigenous kids, who was adopted by an affluent Jewish family in Montreal.



THE DICK VAN DYKE SHOW: NOW IN LIVING COLOR!

UNITED STATES 2020, 48 MIN

FREE Q&A

DIRECTOR: JOHN RICH

In memory of the late Carl Reiner, here's your chance to enjoy two of his favourite episodes of the beloved American television comedy series: "Coast to Coast Big Mouth" (1965) and "October Eve" (1964). Both feature Reiner, the show's legendary creator, in hilarious guest appearances.

WITH: FLANNERY AND QUILT (28 MIN)



LIES MY FATHER TOLD ME

CANADA 1975, 102 MIN

FREE Q&A

DIRECTOR: JÁN KADÁR

A Canadian classic presented in a stunning restoration. Writer Ted Allan's loving story based on his childhood in 1920s Montreal. Caught between the competing philosophies of his old-world spiritual grandfather, and materialistic father, six-year-old David Herman tries to make sense of the ghetto around him.

WITH: TED ALLAN: MINSTREL BOY OF THE 20TH CENTURY (47 MIN)

SUNDAY, JUNE 6 - MONDAY, JUNE 7



ASIA

ONTARIO PREMIERE

Q&A

ISRAEL 2020, 85 MIN

DIRECTOR: RUTHY PRIBAR

Shira Haas (*Shtisel*, *Unorthodox*) stars in this sensitive, unsentimental portrait of motherhood that swept the Israeli Academy Awards. Vika

(Haas) is a defiant teen coping with a degenerative disorder and a fraught relationship with her mother, Asia. As Vika's condition starts to deteriorate, Asia must learn to become the physical and emotional caregiver her daughter needs.

WITH: IN THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR SITS A WOMAN (PROLOGUE) (9 MIN)



CROSSING DELANCEY

UNITED STATES 1988, 97 MIN

Q&A

DIRECTOR: JOAN MICKLIN SILVER

TJFF presents the beloved romantic comedy commemorating the recent passing of groundbreaking director Joan Micklin Silver (*Hester Street*). Thirty-something and single, Izzy must decide between a sophisticated married author and a humble but charming pickle vendor chosen for her by her grandmother's matchmaker.



TIGER WITHIN

CANADIAN PREMIERE

UNITED STATES 2020, 98 MIN

DIRECTOR: RAFAL ZIELINSKI

The incomparable Ed Asner stars in this tender story that recounts the unlikely friendship between Samuel, a Holocaust survivor, and Casey, a skinhead teen runaway. Despite their initial mistrust of one another, they manage to provide a sense of family and mutual support for each other—something they both lacked.

Q&A



UNREINED

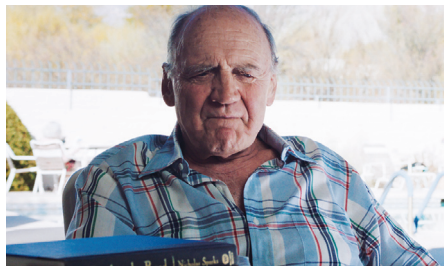
CANADIAN PREMIERE

UNITED STATES 2020, 65 MIN

DIRECTORS: NAOMI GUTTMAN-BASS & MARCIA ROCK

The stranger-than-fiction story of Nancy Zeitlin, the Israeli horseback-riding champion who established the first Palestinian equestrian team. Having been married to a Christian, an Orthodox Jew and a Palestinian, her life reflects the political and religious tensions inherent in Israeli society that she aims to dispel through a shared passion for horses.

Q&A



WINTER JOURNEY / VINTERREJSE

ONTARIO PREMIERE

DENMARK / GERMANY 2021, 90 MIN

DIRECTOR: ANDERS ØSTERGAARD

In this spellbinding hybrid-documentary, Bruno Ganz plays a German Jewish musician recounting his life in Berlin. With the passage of the Nuremberg Laws, he and his wife—also a musician—were only able to perform as members of the Jewish Cultural Federation, a propaganda organization fully controlled by The Reich.

WITH: THE VIOLIN UPSTAIRS (3 MIN)

MONDAY, JUNE 7 - TUESDAY, JUNE 8



KISS ME KOSHER

ONTARIO PREMIERE

GERMANY / ISRAEL 2021, 100 MIN

DIRECTOR: SHIREL PELEG

Before she can marry her non-Jewish, German girlfriend, Shira must convince her family that her fiancée is descended from “good Germans.” A delightfully subversive comedy that mines interfaith and cross-cultural relationships against a specifically Israeli backdrop.

WITH: THE SCHNOZ (12 MIN)



MIGHTY IRA

UNITED STATES 2020, 99 MIN



DIRECTORS: CHRIS MALTBY, NICO PERRINO & AARON REESE

Meet Ira Glasser, the civil rights champion who transformed a near-bankrupt American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) into the juggernaut it is today. As his generation of activists retires, Glasser reflects on his life at the forefront of defending the rights of all Americans, from civil rights leaders to neo-Nazis.

WITH: A SHORT VISIT WITH ALAN BOROVY (5 MIN)



MURANOW

SNEAK PREVIEW

ISRAEL 2020, 70 MIN

DIRECTOR: CHEN SHELACH

Formerly the Warsaw Ghetto, the Muranow district of Poland has been rebuilt on the site of its destruction. In this absorbing documentary, current residents of this rehabilitated neighbourhood discuss how the ghosts of the former ghetto live alongside them as a reminder of the once thriving Jewish community.



TEN FROM YOUR SHOW OF SHOWS

UNITED STATES 1973, 92 MIN

DIRECTOR: MAX LIEBMAN



This 1973 compilation features some of the most memorable sketches from the historic 1950s TV comedy series. Presented in honour of the late Carl Reiner, this hilarious collection reminds us of his versatility as a performer and contributor to various legendary pieces.

TUESDAY, JUNE 8 - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9



CAUGHT IN THE WEB

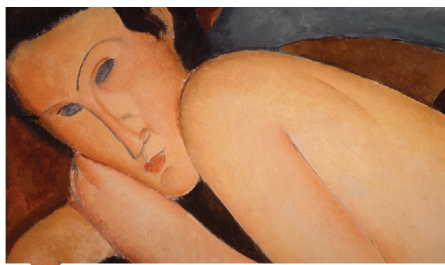
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2021, 3 X 9 MIN

DIRECTOR: RONA SEGAL



A revealing three-episode web-series on how the accessibility of online culture is fundamentally changing Ultra-Orthodox society.



MODIGLIANI AND HIS SECRETS / MODIGLIANI ET SES SECRETS

ONTARIO PREMIERE

FRANCE 2020, 55 MIN

DIRECTOR: JACQUES LOEUILLE

Despite his popularity in the art world, surprisingly little is known about the life of Amedeo Modigliani. One hundred years after his death, historians are now keen to understand the man behind the legend, as well as the evolution of his style and influences.

WITH: THE COPYISTS (14 MIN)



A PRIVATE DEATH

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2020, 56 MIN

DIRECTOR: MARIANNA BARR

The improbable love story of Haya, a Jaffa-born Orthodox Jew, and Tewfic, a Jerusalem-born Christian Arab, which blossomed in 1930s Palestine and continued until the end of their lives. Recounted through family, friends, and archival photographs and film footage, their relationship provides a unique insight into the history of this turbulent era and region.

WITH: FAMILY TYPEWRITER (5 MIN)

Q&A



THE SIGN PAINTER / PILSATA PI UPIS

ONTARIO PREMIERE

LATVIA / CZECH REPUBLIC / LITHUANIA 2021, 114 MIN

DIRECTOR: VIESTUR KAIRISH

In this intelligent tragicomedy, a young sign painter in 1940s Latvia wishes to marry the free-spirited daughter of a local Jewish merchant and pursue a career as an artist. His dreams begin to shatter as the country inches towards totalitarianism.

Q&A



TWO / SHTAIM

ISRAEL 2020, 75 MIN

DIRECTOR: ASTAR ELKAYAM

Bar and Omer embrace the process of starting a family together. In this remarkable and charming debut, director Astar Elkayam tackles the physical and emotional challenges the two women face along the way.

WITH: 2 WEDDINGS 3 STORIES (7 MIN)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9 - THURS, JUNE 10



THE ADVENTURES OF SAUL BELLOW

CANADIAN PREMIERE

UNITED STATES 2021, 85 MIN

DIRECTOR: ASAF GALAY

Q&A

★ FINALIST ★
DAVID A. STEIN

Novelist Saul Bellow is one of the most acclaimed chroniclers of postwar American Jewish life. Filmmaker Asaf Galay offers a close study of Bellow's oeuvre as well as an intimate portrait of the writer's inner life and relationships. Featuring exclusive interviews with writers Philip Roth, Salman Rushdie, Vivian Gornick and Martin Amis.



HERE WE ARE / HINE ANACHNU

ONTARIO PREMIERE

ISRAEL / ITALY 2021, 90 MIN

DIRECTOR: NIR BERGMAN

Winner of the Audience Awards at The Atlanta Jewish Film Festival and Boston Israel Film Festival.

Aharon is a single father who has devoted his life to caring for his autistic son, Uri. When Uri's mother endeavours to move him to a group home where he can gain independence as a young adult, Aharon faces the biggest challenge of parenthood: letting go.

WITH: BECHORA (8 MIN)



MARRY ME HOWEVER / HATUNA HAFUCHA

TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2020, 63 MIN

DIRECTOR: MORDECHAI VARDI

Q&A

This ground-breaking documentary explores the devastation wrought by marrying against one's sexual orientation to comply with religious obligations. Four gay and lesbian individuals recount their journeys from self-acceptance to social activism as they try to affect change in their religious communities.

WITH: THE IMMERSION (4 MIN)



SEIZE THE DAY

UNITED STATES 1986, 93 MIN

DIRECTOR: FIELDER COOK

Robin Williams is unforgettable in this powerful adaptation of Saul Bellow's novel. With his life unravelling, an out-of-work salesman heads to New York to seek a job opportunity and help from his judgemental father. Featuring a stellar supporting cast that includes Jerry Stiller, Joseph Wiseman and Tony Roberts.

THURSDAY, JUNE 10 - FRIDAY, JUNE 11



THE LIGHT AHEAD / FISHKE DER KRUMER

ONTARIO PREMIERE OF RESTORATION

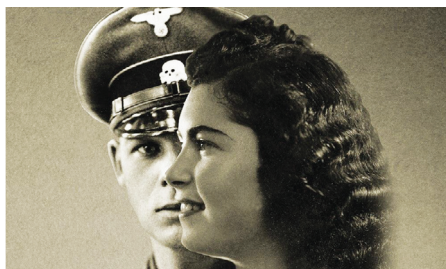
UNITED STATES 1939, 94 MIN

DIRECTOR: EDGAR G. ULMER

The newly-restored Yiddish classic directed by Edgar Ulmer (*Detour*) is a romantic tale about two poor lovers who dream of a better life. A critique of shtetl life, the film is particularly timely in its depiction of how residents embrace superstition over science amidst a cholera outbreak. Film restoration by the National Center for Jewish Film.

WITH: GOLD FOR FOOLS (12 MIN)

Q&A



LOVE IT WAS NOT / AHAVA ZOT LO HAYTA

ISRAEL / AUSTRIA 2020, 83 MIN

DIRECTOR: MAYA SARFATY

An improbable-but-true love story between a Nazi officer and a Jewish concentration camp prisoner that would have decades-long repercussions. Thirty years after an affair with the officer who saved her and her sister, Helena Citron is called upon as a witness at his war crimes trial.

WITH: 40 CHESS BOARDS (17 MIN)

Q&A



RAYMONDE EL BIDAIA

ONTARIO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2020, 77 MIN

DIRECTOR: Yael ABECASSIS

Acclaimed actress Yael Abecassis (*Kadosh*, *Live and Become*) goes behind the camera to follow her mother, one of the most recognized voices of Morocco, Raymonde El Bidaia. The result is both a vivid portrait of a musical diva and an intimate exploration of a mother-daughter relationship.

Q&A



SUMMER OF 85 / ÉTÉ 85

FRANCE / BELGIUM 2020, 90 MIN

DIRECTOR: FRANÇOIS OZON

Nominated for 12 French Academy Awards.

The unparalleled intensity of first-time love is sumptuously rendered in François Ozon's masterful coming of age tale. When charismatic David rescues Alex from a capsized boat, the two embark on a passionate relationship, fuelled by Alex's all-consuming love.

Q&A

FRIDAY, JUNE 11 - SATURDAY, JUNE 12



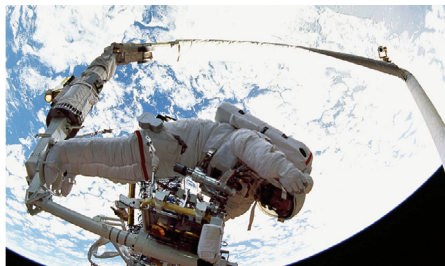
HIGH MAINTENANCE

ISRAEL / POLAND 2020, 65 MIN

DIRECTOR: BARAK HEYMANN

Dani Karavan has created nearly 100 installations across the world, garnering several international awards. Nevertheless, he is dissatisfied: his installations are deteriorating, his health is declining and he's embroiled in a political and artistic conflict over his latest project. A fascinating portrait of an Israeli icon.

Q&A



SPACE TORAH

TORONTO PREMIERE

UNITED STATES 2020, 24 MIN

DIRECTOR: ROB COOPER

NASA's first Jewish male astronaut, Jeffrey Hoffman brought the first Torah into space. This short documentary explores the series of events leading up to that celestial moment.

Q&A



A STARRY SKY ABOVE THE ROMAN GHETTO / UN CIELO STELLATO SOPRA IL GHETTO DI ROMA

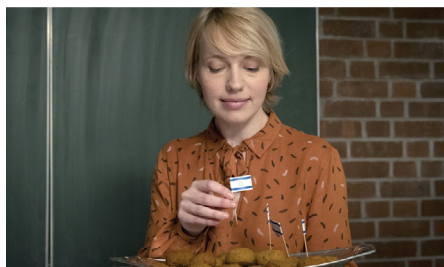
ONTARIO PREMIERE

ITALY 2020, 100 MIN

DIRECTOR: GIULIO BASE

When teenaged Sofia finds a wartime photo of a Jewish child, she enlists the help of a group of students from Rome's Jewish community to discover the fate of this person. Her quest will have life-changing consequences as she discovers the truth about the child's history. The film offers a refreshing look at history through the eyes of a new generation.

Recommended for Ages 12 and up



THE UN-WORD / DAS UNWORT

CANADIAN PREMIERE

GERMANY 2020, 85 MIN

DIRECTOR: LEO KHASIN

The challenges of modern multiculturalism are explored with a deft satirical touch in Leo Khasin's film based on his own experience of growing up Jewish in Berlin. After an altercation between an Iranian, a Palestinian and a Jewish student, the parents of the three boys are called to the school by their teacher to resolve the situation.

Q&A



WE WERE THE OTHERS / HA'DAVKAIM

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2019, 54 MIN

DIRECTOR: HADAS AYALON

★ FINALIST ★
★ DAVID A. STEIN ★

Israel is now known for its support of LGBTQ rights, but that was far from the case in the 1960s and 70s. In this illuminating documentary, six gay men recount the challenges and dangers of living openly at a time when homosexual acts were still illegal and considered a mental illness.

WITH: THE BINDING OF ITZIK (18 MIN)

FRIDAY, JUNE 11 - SUNDAY JUNE 13



LABYRINTH OF PEACE / FRIEDEN

(Eps. 4-6)

See Friday June 4.

Q&A

SATURDAY, JUNE 12 - SUNDAY, JUNE 13



EDDY'S WORLD (DIRECTOR'S CUT)

TORONTO PREMIERE

UNITED STATES 2020, 28 MIN

DIRECTOR: LYN GOLDFARB

Eddy Goldfarb is a 98-year-old working toy inventor, best known for the iconic Yakity-Yak Teeth and nearly 800 other classic toys.

WITH: THE ROPE WARRIOR (12 MIN)

FREE



Photo Credit: CBC Still Photo Collection

LOVE ON THE NOSE

CANADA 1978, 90 MIN

DIRECTOR: GEORGE BLOOMFIELD

In this colourful adaptation of writer Ted Allan's tale of communists and criminals in 1930s Montreal, Saul Rubinek plays an idealistic young Trotskyist who gets a job at a cigar-store that fronts for a bookie's betting parlour. Also featured in the cast are Al Waxman, Marilyn Lightstone, Eugene Levy, Maury Chaykin, Joe Silver and Paul Soles.

FREE

Q&A

SUNDAY, JUNE 13 - MONDAY, JUNE 14



ALONE TOGETHER

CANADIAN PREMIERE

Q&A

★ WINNER ★
★ DAVID A. STEIN ★

ISRAEL 2019, 56 MIN

DIRECTORS: KINERET HAY-GILLOR & MAYA TIBERMAN

Winner of the audience award at Israel's Docaviv Film Festival. A heartfelt documentary about an everyday hero devoted to humanitarian pursuits. By day, Ravit works in Tel Aviv's soup kitchens. At night, she volunteers for an association devoted to ensuring that abandoned babies experience human touch through hugs.

WITH: VOICES FROM THE BALCONIES (6 MIN)



FORGIVENESS / MECHILA

ONTARIO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2019, 104 MIN

DIRECTORS: GUY AMIR & HANAN SAVYON

Nissan and Shaul are two bumbling thieves whose failed attempt to rob a bank lands Shaul in jail. Released from prison just before the Jewish New Year, Shaul tries to regain the trust of his wife and daughter but his plans go awry when Nissan, now a Hasidic Jew, re-enters his life.



LEONARD COHEN, PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST / LEONARD COHEN, PORTRAIT INTIME

Q&A

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF NEW RESTORATION

FRANCE 1996, 52 MIN

DIRECTOR: ARMELLE BRUSQ

French artist Armelle Brusq offers a rare view of Leonard Cohen during his five years living as part of the community of Buddhists at Mount Baldy Zen Center. Featuring a soundtrack with some of his best songs, this documentary is a **must-see for Cohen fans.**



THE RED SCARF

CANADIAN PREMIERE

Q&A

★ FINALIST ★
★ DAVID A. STEIN ★

ISRAEL 2020, 60 MIN

DIRECTOR: PETER MOSTOVOY

Blending animation, archival footage and a healthy dose of humour, Peter Mostovoy recounts his career as a Russian-Jewish filmmaker, from the height of the Soviet Union to its collapse. Naively believing that his art could be free from the demands of the Soviet regime, Mostovoy nevertheless became entangled in the absurdity of Soviet-era politics. WITH: LOOK AT THE FACE (11 MIN) and ONLY THREE LESSONS (19 MIN)

CLOSING FILM



THE SPECIALS / HORS NORMES

ONTARIO PREMIERE



Q&A

FRANCE 2019, 114 MIN

DIRECTORS: OLIVIER NAKACHE & ÉRIC TOLEDANO

Chosen as the closing night film at the Cannes Festival, *The Specials* is a

heartfelt drama inspired by a true story. An unlikely duo in Paris join forces to

tackle systemic neglect toward the developmentally challenged and those

marginalized by society. Bruno (Vincent Cassel) and Malik (Reda Kateb) run

separate non-profit organizations. One Jewish, the other Muslim, they unite to

affect change in the system. Directed by the popular duo behind the French smash

hit, *The Intouchables*.



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(\$10,000+)

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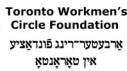
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EMBASSY OF DENMARK
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EUROPEAN UNION
Film Festival



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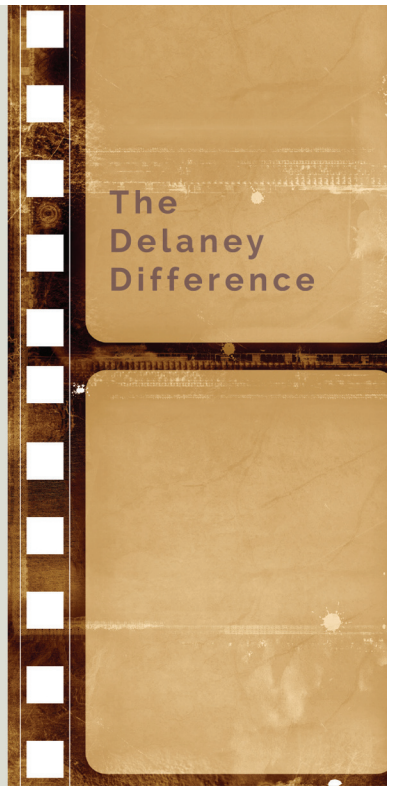


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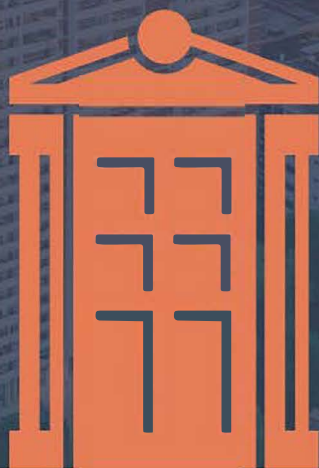
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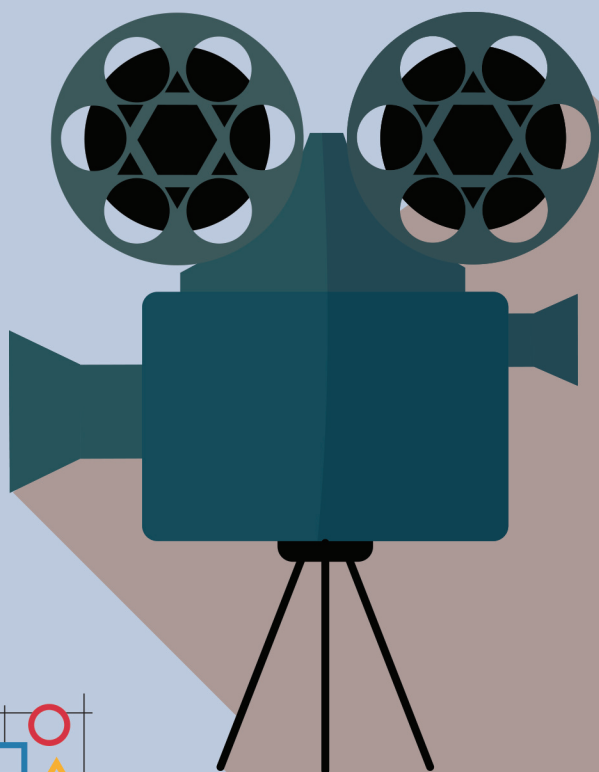


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