

# 28TH ANNUAL TORONTO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



TJFF 2020 Film never  
looked so good.

## TJFF GOES ONLINE

FALL EDITION:  
OCT 22 - NOV 1

The fall edition of TJFF2020 Online presents over 50 Films,  
including 1 World Premiere, 22 Canadian Premieres and 12 Toronto premieres...  
...offering larger-than-life tales from around the world about dreamers, troublemakers,  
heroes, revolutionaries, outsiders and outliers.

### FILM SELECTION

Pick your films here or visit TJFF.COM for more information and schedule additions and changes that may occur. All films available to view for 48hrs (as per schedule). All Festival films are accessible to view in the province of Ontario.

### ORDER TICKETS

ONLINE ANYTIME AT TJFF.COM

OR BY PHONE at 416-324-9121 from October 8–21: 12PM to 6PM  
and October 22–November 2: 12PM to 8PM

### PRICES (HST included)

\$12 Household Ticket

\$15 Household Ticket with food bank donation\*

\$18 Online Film Masterclass Household Ticket including food bank donation\*

**TJFF 2020 FALL EDITION: ALL ACCESS PASS – \$200 (Value: \$372+)**

With a pass you will have access to watch **ALL** films presented at TJFF2020

**Online: Fall Edition** (Online Film Masterclass not included)

### \*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.

### 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.

### 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 Q&A's will be posted to TJFF.COM for future viewing.

### THERE ARE SO MANY VIEWING OPTIONS FOR ENJOYING THE FESTIVAL FILMS

*Watch on your television using:*



CHROMECAST



APPLE TV



ROKU



AIRPLAY

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



On your computer



On your smartphone



On your tablet

**TECH SUPPORT Available BY PHONE at 416-324-9121**

**October 8 - 21 12PM - 6PM**

**October 22 - November 2 12PM - 8PM**

**TRY IT OUT!** Order a ticket for the FREE short film  
**Absolutely No Spitting** to configure your preferred viewing set-up.  
Visit [tjff.com/test](https://tjff.com/test) for more details.

Have more questions about how it all works? Visit [tjff.com/faq](https://tjff.com/faq)

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

# FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

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ALL FILMS AVAILABLE FOR A FIXED 2-DAY (48HR) VIEWING WINDOW (FROM 12:01AM DAY 1 - 11:59PM DAY 2)

Zoom Q&A Schedule available at [TJFF.COM](https://tjff.com)

ALL FILMS SHOWN IN THEIR ORIGINAL LANGUAGE. FILMS NOT IN ENGLISH ARE SHOWN WITH SUBTITLES. **TICKETS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.**

**Q&A** = FILM SELECTION FEATURES A LIVE ZOOM Q&A.  
**PLEASE REFER TO Q&A SCHEDULE AT [TJFF.COM](https://tjff.com) FOR DATE/TIME.**

**FREE** = FREE TICKETED FILMS

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

Sublet **Q&A**

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Aulcie **Q&A**

Breaking Bread **Q&A**

If You See My Mother

Thou Shalt Not Hate **Q&A**

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Grierson and Gouzenko **Q&A FREE**

## • SPECIAL LIVE EVENT • SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 AT 4PM

Online Film Masterclass: Cinema with  
a Cause with Professor Marc Lapadula

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 - MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

Anton **Q&A**

Minyan **Q&A**

The One and Only Jewish Miss America  
**Q&A**

Picture of His Life **Q&A**

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

Golden Voices

The Prophet **Q&A**

Shiva Baby

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Life Will Smile **Q&A**

Love in Suspenders

Outremont and the Hasidim **Q&A**

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28 - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

Labor, Rebellion, Upheaval **Q&A**

Love & Stuff

Shalom Taiwan

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

Ma'abarot: The Israeli Transit  
Camps **Q&A**

Mrs. G

New Yiddish Talkies : A Short Film  
Programme **Q&A**

When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit **Q&A**

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

Adventures of a Mathematician

Army of Lovers in the Holy Land **Q&A**

Born in Jerusalem and Still Alive **Q&A**

The Changing Face of Israeli Cinema:  
A Short Film Programme **Q&A**

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31 - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Butterflies in Berlin – Diary of a Soul  
Split in Two **FREE**

A Father's Kaddish **FREE**

From Generation To Generation **FREE**

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Africa

Antisemitism **Q&A**

The Crossing

Shared Legacies: The African-American  
Jewish Civil Rights Alliance **Q&A**

DRAMAS

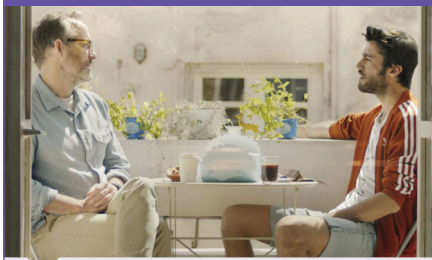
COMEDIES

DOCUMENTARIES

SHORTS

## THURSDAY, OCT 22 - FRIDAY, OCT 23

### OPENING FILM



### SUBLET Q&A

#### CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL / UNITED STATES 2020, 89 MIN

DIRECTOR: EYTAN FOX

The acclaimed director of *Walk on Water* and *The Bubble* offers a poignant tale of a cross-generational encounter. Michael, a conservative, middle-aged writer arrives in Israel to write a travel piece. He sublets an apartment from Tomer, a young, gay film student who offers to act as his guide. Though their views on love and sex are diametrically opposed, the two form a connection that emotionally liberates them both.

## FRIDAY, OCT 23 - SATURDAY, OCT 24



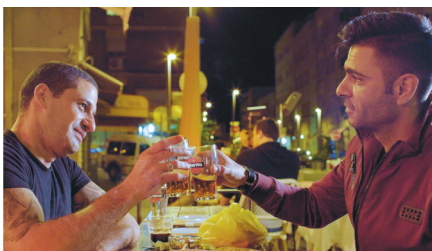
### AULCIE Q&A

#### TORONTO PREMIERE

UNITED STATES / ISRAEL 2020, 72 MIN

DIRECTOR: DANI MENKIN

An inspirational documentary charting the meteoric rise and fall of African-American basketball player, Aulcie Perry. He converted to Judaism and became an Israeli citizen after leading Maccabi Tel Aviv to its first European championship.



### BREAKING BREAD Q&A

#### CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL / UNITED STATES 2020, 86 MIN

DIRECTOR: BETH ELISE HAWK

Determined to spark social change through food, the first Muslim Arab to win Israel's *MasterChef* competition, Dr. Nof Atamna-Ismaeel, founded the A-sham Arabic Food Festival. There, Jewish and Arab chefs are paired and collaborate to transform

traditional recipes. The result proves that there is no room for politics in the kitchen.  
WITH: ARABIC FRIDAY (4 MIN)



## IF YOU SEE MY MOTHER / SI TU VOIS MA MÈRE

FRANCE 2020, 90 MIN

DIRECTOR: NATHANAËL GUEDJ

Oedipal issues are mined for full comic effect in Nathanel Guedj's smart debut feature. 30-year old Max is a single ophthalmologist who appears to be coping with his mother's death. Internally, he still sees her and talks to her. Her presence becomes increasingly less welcome when he meets a potential girlfriend.



## THOU SHALT NOT HATE/NON ODIARE Q&A

#### CANADIAN PREMIERE

ITALY / POLAND 2020, 96 MIN

DIRECTOR: MAURO MANCINI

**Official Selection - Venice International Film Critics' Week 2020.** A gripping Italian drama that examines the resurgence of neo-Nazism in contemporary Italy. Remorseful after refusing to treat a man with a swastika on his chest, Simone, a Jewish surgeon and son of a Holocaust survivor, tries to assuage his guilt by hiring the man's daughter to work for him.  
WITH: SAFIYYAH (9 MIN)

## SATURDAY, OCT 24 - SUNDAY, OCT 25



## GRIERSON AND GOUZENKO Q&A FREE

CANADA 1986, 90 MIN

DIRECTOR: MARTIN KINCH

A forgotten piece of Canadian postwar history is brought to life in this compelling CBC drama written by Rick Salutin. John Grierson and his National Film Board become targets of an anti-Communist blacklist, after Soviet clerk Igor Gouzenko produces documents revealing a spy ring operating in Canada. Starring Eric Peterson and Saul Rubinek.

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## SPECIAL LIVE EVENT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 AT 4 PM



### ONLINE FILM MASTERCLASS: CINEMA WITH A CAUSE

Many Jewish-American filmmakers crafted movies with powerful social justice issues woven into them. These artists possessed a profound awareness of discrimination and exploitation. Back by popular demand, professor Marc Lapadula examines some of the memorable work by filmmakers such as Michael Curtiz, Sidney Lumet and even the late Carl Reiner.

SUNDAY, OCT 25 - MONDAY, OCT 26



### ANTON / ANTOH Q&A

#### CANADIAN PREMIERE

RUSSIA / UKRAINE / GERMANY 2019, 99 MIN  
DIRECTOR: ZAZA URUSHADZE

Set in a Ukrainian village in 1919, this moving drama explores the unbreakable bonds of friendship between Jakob, a Russian Jew, and his best friend Anton, a German Catholic. The imaginary world they create shields them from the violence and divisions surrounding them. Based on Canadian author Dale Eisler's novel.

### MINYAN Q&A

#### TORONTO PREMIERE

UNITED STATES 2020, 118 MIN  
DIRECTOR: ERIC STEEL

Based on a David Bezmozgis short story, *Minyan* is an absorbing coming-of-age tale set in 1980s Brighton Beach, Brooklyn. The son of Russian immigrants, 17-year old David struggles under the weight of religious tradition, familial expectations and his own sexual identity, eventually learning how to integrate these disparate parts.

WITH: BLACK HAT (15 MIN)

### THE ONE AND ONLY JEWISH MISS AMERICA Q&A

#### CANADIAN PREMIERE

UNITED STATES 2020, 51 MIN  
DIRECTOR: DAVID AROND

This fascinating documentary follows Bess Myerson, the only Jew to win the Miss America title, from her humble beginnings

in a Jewish housing project to her eventual surprise victory of the coveted title in 1945. Faced with blatant antisemitism before and after her win, Myerson committed her future career to fighting injustice.

WITH: ABSOLUTELY NO SPITTING (11 MIN)

### PICTURE OF HIS LIFE Q&A

UNITED STATES / CANADA / ISRAEL 2019, 72 MIN  
DIRECTORS: DANI MENKIN & YONATAN NIR

**Winner of the Audience Award at the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival.** In this stunningly-shot documentary, legendary Israeli wildlife photographer, Amos Nachoum, journeys to the Canadian Arctic to photograph a Polar Bear underwater, while swimming alongside it. As he undertakes the challenge, he tries to find inner peace.

MONDAY, OCT 26 - TUESDAY, OCT 27



### GOLDEN VOICES

#### TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2019, 88 MIN  
DIRECTOR: EVGENY RUMAN

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russian dubbing artists Raya and Victor immigrate to Israel and discover that there is no market for Russian-speaking film-dubbing artists. Challenged to make ends meet, the couple attempts to utilize their talents any way they can, resulting in some bizarre and funny predicaments. A seamless blend of humour, pathos and heart.

### THE PROPHET / HA'NAVI KAHANA Q&A

#### TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2019, 68 MIN  
DIRECTOR: ILAN RUBIN FIELDS

Thirty years after he was barred from Israeli parliament for extremist, anti-democratic views, Meir Kahane's ideological descendants are finding newfound support. This revealing documentary explores his life and career, from his founding of the Jewish Defence League in the United States, to his lasting impact on Israeli politics.



### SHIVA BABY

UNITED STATES / CANADA 2020, 77 MIN  
DIRECTOR: EMMA SELIGMAN

## COMEDIES

A taut comedy of discomfort, *Shiva Baby* reflects the millennial Jewish experience through the plight of Danielle, a gender studies student whose neatly compartmentalized life unravels one afternoon when she discovers that both her former high school girlfriend and her current sugar daddy are guests at the same shiva she attends with her parents.

WITH: WIFE ME (12 MIN)

TUESDAY, OCT 27 - WEDNESDAY, OCT 28

### LIFE WILL SMILE Q&A

#### CANADIAN PREMIERE

GREECE / UNITED STATES / UK 2018, 38 MIN  
DIRECTOR: DREY KLEANTHOUS

Zakynthos, a Greek island on the Ionian Sea, has the unique distinction of having saved all 275 of its Jewish population during WWII. Haim Konstantini, one of the survivors, narrates this uplifting story.

WITH: ISMAIL'S DILEMMA (33 MIN) and THE RIGHTEOUS GYPSY (33 MIN)

### LOVE IN SUSPENDERS / AHAVA BI'SHLEI'KES

#### TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2019, 93 MIN  
DIRECTOR: JORGE WELLER

When absent-minded Israeli widow Tami accidentally bumps 70-year-old widower Beno with her car, the last thing on her mind is romance. Hoping Beno won't sue her, she invites him to her apartment. Circumstances conspire to continually bring the two lonely elders together.

WITH: TOUCH (14 MIN)



### OUTREMONT AND THE HASIDIM / OUTREMONT ET LES HASSIDIM Q&A

#### WORLD PREMIERE OF ENGLISH VERSION

CANADA 2019, 52 MIN  
DIRECTOR: ERIC SCOTT



For years, tensions have been building between the Hasidic residents of the Montreal area of Outremont and their non-Jewish neighbours. A candid perspective of the conflict, and of the efforts being made by residents and local leaders alike, to work past their grievances and arrive at a place of understanding.

WEDNESDAY, OCT 28 - THURSDAY, OCT 29

### LABOR, REBELLION, UPHEAVAL Q&A

#### CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2019, 53 MIN  
DIRECTORS: DAVID DERI, DORON GALEZER & RUTH YUVAL  
The creators of *Ancestral Sin* (TJFF 2018) focus on immigrant children from North Africa

## DOCUMENTARIES

who were streamed into vocational schools in periphery towns in Israel. Despite a concerted effort to keep these newcomers at the bottom of the social strata, the second generation of Mizrahim created a powerful grassroots movement to protest these policies.

WITH: DINA MALUL FIGHTS BACK (22 MIN)

### LOVE & STUFF

UNITED STATES 2020, 80 MIN

DIRECTOR: JUDITH HELFAND

About to become a single mother at fifty, director Judith Helfand reflects on her relationship with her own late mother. Helfand uses old home movies to link the past and the present in order to make way for the future, as she unpacks her mother's belongings.

WITH: DYING OF OLD AGE IN A TIME OF PLAGUE (5 MIN)

### SHALOM TAIWAN

#### TORONTO PREMIERE

ARGENTINA 2019, 85 MIN  
DIRECTOR: WALTER TEJBLUM

This uplifting dramedy follows the misadventures of Rabbi Aaron as he tries to raise funds to repay the money he borrowed from a moneylender. With the threat of having his community centre seized as property, Rabbi Aaron embarks on a last-ditch fundraising effort by traveling to Taiwan to attract donors.

THURSDAY, OCT 29 - FRIDAY, OCT 30

### MA'ABAROT: THE ISRAELI TRANSIT CAMPS Q&A

#### TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2019, 84 MIN  
DIRECTOR: DINA ZVI RIKLIS

Created as a temporary housing solution in the aftermath of Israeli independence, transit camps (Ma'aborot) were built to absorb the influx of new immigrants, primarily Jews from Arab countries. Director Dina Zvi Riklis (*Three Mothers*), a former camp resident, explores how these deplorable shantytowns became an enduring symbol for the plight of Mizrahi Jews.



### MRS. G

#### TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2019, 54 MIN  
DIRECTOR: DALIT KIMOR

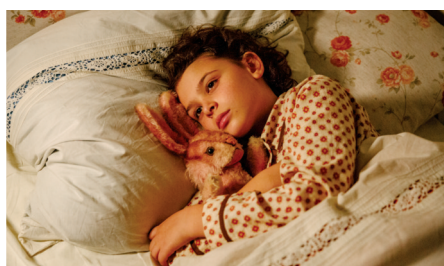
The incredible story of Lea Gottlieb, a Holocaust survivor and swimsuit mogul whose Gottex brand catapulted Israeli swimwear to the forefront of the global fashion scene. Despite her meteoric rise, she ultimately paid a price as a result of her controlling personality and unyielding professional vision.





## NEW YIDDISH TALKIES: A SHORT FILM PROGRAMME Q&A

From a magical-realist comedy set in Hasidic Brooklyn, to two masterly-directed films based on stories by Sholem Aleichem and Franz Kafka, TJFF presents an eclectic collection of wonderful new short films from around the world, produced in the Yiddish language. Plus, two charming English shorts show a younger generation reflecting on the Yiddish language and values they have inherited.



## WHEN HITLER STOLE PINK RABBIT / ALS HITLER DAS ROSA KANINCHEN STAHL Q&A

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

GERMANY / SWITZERLAND 2019, 119 MIN  
DIRECTOR: CAROLINE LINK

Caroline Link, director of the Academy Award-winning film *Nowhere in Africa*, delivers a beautifully-rendered family drama based on the best-selling children's novel by Judith Kerr. Forced to flee Germany after Hitler comes to power, nine-year old Anna has to adapt to life as a refugee in different countries.

**Recommended for ages 10 and up.**

**FRIDAY, OCT 30 - SATURDAY, OCT 31**

## ADVENTURES OF A MATHEMATICIAN

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

GERMANY/POLAND/UK 2019, 102 MIN  
DIRECTOR: THORSTEN KLEIN

Stanislaw Ulam, a Polish Jewish immigrant

and Harvard mathematics professor, is invited to work on a secret project in Los Alamos in the early 1940s. He becomes part of a team of scientists whose work led to the creation of the hydrogen bomb.

## CENTREPIECE FILM



## ARMY OF LOVERS IN THE HOLY LAND / ARMY OF LOVERS BEERETZ HAKODESH Q&A

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

ISRAEL 2018, 65 MIN  
DIRECTOR: ASAF GALAY

A rollicking, upbeat documentary about Army of Lovers, the Swedish pop group sensation, equal parts Abba, disco and camp, whose motto is "more is more, less is a bore". Thirty years after their debut, front man Jean-Pierre Barda feels the pull of his Jewish roots and decides to move to Israel.

## BORN IN JERUSALEM AND STILL ALIVE Q&A

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

ISRAEL 2019, 83 MIN  
DIRECTORS: YOSSI ATIA & DAVID OFEK

A dark romantic comedy that offers a deadpan take on the absurdity of life in Israel. Terror-attack survivor Ronen deals with his trauma by offering tours of famous attack sites. On one tour, he falls in love with a woman who opens his eyes to a potentially happier future.

WITH: HOME (17 MIN)

## THE CHANGING FACE OF ISRAELI CINEMA: A SHORT FILM PROGRAMME Q&A

From an irreverent journey to the line between East and West Jerusalem—*Broad City*-style, to a sharply-observed Birthright trip attended by descendants of Russian Jews. TJFF presents a showcase of emerging female directors, with this diverse and

offbeat mix of short films that presents Israeli identity in a new light.

**SATURDAY, OCT 31 - SUNDAY, NOV 1**

## BUTTERFLIES IN BERLIN - DIARY OF A SOUL SPLIT IN TWO FREE

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

ITALY / GERMANY 2019, 29 MIN  
DIRECTOR: MONICA MANGANELLI

Using stunning art deco-style animation, this award-winning film tells the story of one of the world's first post-op transgender women in Weimar-era Berlin.

## A FATHER'S KADDISH FREE

**INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE**  
UNITED STATES 2020, 31 MIN

DIRECTOR: JENNIFER KAPLAN  
In this deeply poignant short documentary, potter and teacher Steven Branfman says kaddish for his late son by making a new Japanese tea bowl (chawan) every day for a year.

## FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION / L'DOR V'DOR FREE

**TORONTO PREMIERE**  
CANADA 2019, 17 MIN  
DIRECTOR: MICHAEL TOBIN

A father and son sit together on a deserted beach and experience a vulnerable moment that changes their relationship forever.

**SUNDAY, NOV 1 - MONDAY, NOV 2**

## AFRICA

ISRAEL 2019, 82 MIN  
DIRECTOR: OREN GERNER

Filmmaker Oren Gerner directs his own parents in this moving drama about aging and self-reinvention. 68-year old Meir suffers an existential crisis after he learns that he has not been invited to plan the annual festivities in his village, a job he had held for more than 30 years.

## ANTISEMITISM / ANTISÉMITISMES Q&A

**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**  
FRANCE / CANADA / ISRAEL 2020, 120 MIN  
DIRECTOR: ILAN ZIV

A comprehensive examination of antisemitism in France from the Middle Ages through to today. The director of TJFF favourite, *Six Days in June* showcases how the depiction of "the

Jew" in society has been used to stoke fear throughout France's history and how political and social parties have relied on antisemitic tropes to jeopardize democracy.

## THE CROSSING / FLUKTEN OVER GRENSEN

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

NORWAY 2020, 96 MIN  
DIRECTOR: JOHANNE HELGELAND

The Norwegian countryside provides the visually spectacular landscape for this family-friendly film exploring courage and friendship. After their parents are arrested, Gerda and her brother Otto discover two Jewish children hiding in their basement and take it upon themselves to smuggle them across the border to neutral Sweden.

**Recommended for ages 11 and up.**

## CLOSING FILM



## SHARED LEGACIES: THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN JEWISH CIVIL RIGHTS ALLIANCE Q&A

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

UNITED STATES 2020, 97 MIN  
DIRECTOR: SHARI ROGERS

**FINALIST**  
DAVID A. STEIN

This timely documentary examines the coalition between African and Jewish Americans that began in the early 20th century in response to their shared experiences of bigotry and discrimination. In light of rising intolerance around the world, these lessons from the past serve as an urgent call for renewed solidarity today. Featuring interviews with the late Congressman John Lewis, Harry Belafonte, Susannah Heschel (daughter of Rabbi Abraham Heschel), Martin Luther King III and many others.  
WITH: FINDING HAROLD (5 MIN)

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