



THE 11TH ANNUAL **Toronto Jewish Film Festival**

Bloor Cinema

May 3 - 11, 2003

(416) 324-9121

[www.tjff.com](http://www.tjff.com)



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**1010**

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## Festival At A Glance TJFF 2003

### SATURDAY, MAY 3

8:00 pm - Opening Night Festivities

9:15 pm - Amen., \*130 min. \*\*p. 2

### SUNDAY, MAY 4

11:00 am - Truth, Lies, and Videotape (Panel),  
90 min. p. 24

1:00 pm - Close, Closed, Closure, 58 min. p. 8

3:00 pm - Shalom Ireland / The Bombay Jews,  
86 min. p. 20

5:15 pm - Displaced! Miracle at St. Othilien /  
A Bridge of Books, 59 min. p. 8 & 9

7:15 pm - Unfair Competition (Concorrenza Sleale),  
120 min. p. 25

9:45 pm - Benny Benny/Minus Plus, 73 min. p. 6

### MONDAY, MAY 5

11:00 am - Adio Kerida/ Jews In Armenia, 83 min. p. 4

1:00 pm - All I've Got/Foolish Me, 95 min. p. 4 & 5

3:00 pm - A Trumpet in the Wadi, 97 min. p. 23

5:00 pm - Y.I.D./Falafel, 79 min. p. 25

7:15 pm - God is Great...I Am Very Small/Khasenjeh:  
A Jamaican Jewish Wedding, 104 min. p. 10

9:30 pm - Gebirtig, 115 min. p. 9

### TUESDAY, MAY 6

11:00 am - Reconstruction, 90 min. p. 18

1:00 pm - Atlantic Drift, 88 min. p. 6

3:00 pm - Epstein's Nacht, 82 min. p. 9

5:00 pm - Undying Love, 88 min. p. 24

7:30 pm - Samy Y Yo, 85 min. p. 19

9:30 pm - Thanatos & Eros / Memoires Incertaines /  
Once, 107 min. p. 21 & 22

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

11:00 am - Shalom Y'All / The Believers of the Island  
of Tolerance, 81 min. p. 20

1:00 pm - Mayor of the West Side / The Collector of  
Bedford Street, 84 min. p. 14 & 15

3:00 pm - To Live with Terror / Asesino, 115 min. 22

5:30 pm - My Terrorist, 59 min. p. 17

7:15 pm - A Home on the Range / Song of a Jewish  
Cowboy, 70 min. p. 12 & 13

9:30 pm - Giraffes, 115 min. p. 10

### THURSDAY, MAY 8

11:00 am - My Name Was Sabina Spielrein.  
90 min. p. 16

1:00 pm - Monsieur Batignole, 99 min. p. 16

3:15 pm - Jenin Diary - The Inside Story, 65 min. p. 13

5:00 pm - La Guerre A Paris / Les Galets  
(Skimming Stones), 92 min. p. 11

7:15 pm - Secret Lives: Hidden Children and their  
Rescuers During WWII, 71 min. p. 19

9:30 pm - The Hebrew Hammer / Fever in the Blood,  
96 min. p. 12

### FRIDAY, MAY 9

11:00 am - The Nazi Officer's Wife, 98 min. p. 17

1:00 pm - Between the Lines / The Eye of the  
Reporter, 85 min. p. 6 & 7

3:00 pm - Tramp and the Dictator / The Pawnshop,  
78 min. p. 23

5:00 pm - The Great Dictator, 128 min. p. 11

### SATURDAY, MAY 10

#### "FAMILY DAY AT THE FESTIVAL"

1:30 pm - Sing-along / Storytelling (free) p. vi

3:00 pm - A Musical Puppet Story (free) p. vi

9:15 pm - Amy's Orgasm, 86 min. p. 5

11:30 pm - A Match Made in Seven, 46 min. p. 14

### SUNDAY, MAY 11

11:00 am - Looking at Ourselves (Talk) /  
John Garfield, 90 min. p. 13

1:00 pm - A Brivele Der Mamen, 106 min. p. 7

3:15 pm - Only in America, 80 min. p. 18

5:00 pm - Shanghai Ghetto, 95 min. p. 21

7:30 pm - Moments, 56 min. p. 15

9:00 pm - Nicky's Children, 55 min. p. 3

\* Total running time (shorts included)

\*\* See page for film description

All screenings take place at the Bloor Cinema  
(Bloor & Bathurst) [www.tjff.com](http://www.tjff.com) 416-324-9121





Photo by: Aviva Zukerman Schure

**By Helen Zukerman, [Executive Director](#)**

As I write this year's annual address, the backdrop is a world on the brink of war, the Middle East peace talks are in shambles and post 9/11 life is forever altered. The Festival programme is reflective of the times and is as eclectic as the current world. Irreverence—The Hebrew Hammer, Amy's Orgasm; the struggle to connect—A Match Made in Seven; Heroism—Nick's Children, Secret Lives, Displaced! Miracle at St. Otilien. This is the framework in which this is written. An unusual address for an unusual time.

UJA Federation has lent their support this year with a mailing to help publicize the Festival. We are so pleased with this first step. It is only through the efforts of Shirley Worth, Ted Sokolsky, Morris Zbar and Susan Jackson that this happened. We are grateful for their support. The next stage will take a lot of work. We have been asked by Federation to help them develop a "case for the funding of arts and culture." At the moment, arts and culture has NO budget. In order to be put on the table for consideration, a case needs to be developed so that donors recognize the need to support Jewish content arts and culture. As an example, see the National Foundation for Jewish Culture (the U.S. model on the web).

This is where we need your help. I need you to write, fax or e-mail the Festival.

Tell us:

1. What this Festival means to you, your family and/or the community.
2. What Ashkenaz means to you, your family and/or the community.
3. If you are a creator of Jewish arts and culture—what a dependable source of funding would mean to you.

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival and Ashkenaz are two events that bring together a diverse group of people to celebrate who we are and enrich our lives. Yes—funding Jewish day schools is important. Yes—it is true that UJA Federation is pulled in a thousand directions. But in a community that raised over 60 million dollars in the last campaign, 1% of that could support a thriving cultural renaissance that nurtures the soul and celebrates our existence. Cultural festivals are educational and shed light on issues of Jewish identity, continuity and heritage.

Even after 10 years, the Festival's survival remains precarious. It is only through the stellar performance of Roz Davidson, our Director of Development, that we raise the funds to produce such an excellent week. We are indebted to you, our donors. Special thanks is given to those private and corporate funders who have been with us from the beginning in 1993.

The times to stand up and be counted are few and far between. Don't miss this opportunity. This Festival enriches life in Toronto and nurtures the soul.

I urge you all to take the time to make your wishes known.

Contact: TJFF, 17 Madison Avenue, Toronto M5R 2S2 or fax: 416-324-9415

or e-mail: [helenzukerman@hotmail.com](mailto:helenzukerman@hotmail.com)



Photo by: Aviva Zukerman Schure

**By Shlomo Schwartzberg, [Director of Programming](#)**

Nearly 60 films comprise this year's Festival, covering a wide range of subjects and genres, including films on the intractable Israeli-Palestinian conflict (Jenin Diary; Moments; My Terrorist; Between the Lines; Close, Closed, Closure); Jews From Distant Lands (Shalom Ireland; Shalom Y'All; Adio Kerida); and inspiring films about rescuers who saved Jews from the Holocaust (Secret Lives: Hidden Children and their Rescuers During World War Two; Nicky's Children; Displaced! Miracle at St. Otilien). We also have powerful films from two of the world's most respected filmmakers, Costa-Gavras (Amen.) and Ettore Scola (Unfair Competition), as well as The Hebrew Hammer and Amy's Orgasm, which are just plain fun.

But the TJFF is more than just simply about films. It's also about community, understanding and the sometimes fragile, sometimes strong links between neighbours—ideas and issues that are reflected through the films we show. Those can be disturbing, as in the documentary Y.I.D.: Yehudeem in the Diaspora, which looks at the unfortunate rift between Israeli-born Torontonians and the greater Jewish community. But they can also be hopeful, as in Only in America, which salutes Joe Lieberman, who became the first Jew to run for the office of Vice-President and is now campaigning for the American Presidency. To Live with Terror and Asesino examine how the Jews of Argentina have coped with their recent, bloody history. By contrast, our Israeli films and TV dramas (Giraffes; All I've Got; Benny Benny) showcase a more playful, even fantastical side of the country, as opposed to the sober documentaries emanating from there. I'm also pleased to announce our special co-presentation of Yossi and Jagger with the Inside Out Toronto Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival. Eytan Fox's moving Israeli drama, about a love affair between two soldiers, will play at the Bloor on Thursday, May 22 (see [www.insideout.on.ca](http://www.insideout.on.ca) for more details).

We also involve various distinguished members from our community, including noted University of Toronto professor Michael Marrus, who was on the Jewish-Catholic committee which examined the actions of the Vatican during the Holocaust. He is introducing our Opening Night film, Amen. Our Closing Night film, Nicky's Children, will be introduced by veteran CBC journalist Joe Schlesinger, who was one of the children saved by Nicholas Winton. The talented students of Ryerson's School of Image Arts have brought us more inventive "bumpers" for the festival. Director David Stein is also back with another funny trailer, and the world premiere of his latest short, Khasenjeh: The Jamaican Jewish Wedding. Other special events: A SpeedDating event to go with our SpeedDating movie, A Match Made in Seven (See page 14) and a rousing performance by Yiddish-singing Jewish cowboy, Scott Gerber, who appears in A Home on the Range: The Jewish Chicken Farmers of Petaluma and Song of a Jewish Cowboy.

Then there's our provocative panel on "truth", war and filmmaking; our Saturday free family program; Eric Goldman's talk on the American Jew in Film; and much, much more. Something for every taste. Have fun!



## About Our Cover

The word “menorah” in Hebrew means “candelabrum” or “lamp stand”. Most people are familiar with the nine-branched menorah or chanukiah used to commemorate Chanukah. But one of the oldest and most central symbols of Judaism is the seven-branched menorah that was first fashioned from a single piece of pure gold on the precise instructions of Moses for use in the Temple.

It is this beautiful and rich symbol of light that artist Gretchen Sankey chose to depict in her tapestry-like image that graces the cover of the 11th annual Toronto Jewish Film Festival programme book. The association of the soul of man with light was first made by Jewish thinkers. The symbolism of the menorah—contributing spiritual as well as physical illumination—reflects one of the objectives of the TJFF: to shine a light on the culture and identity of the Jewish people, illuminating understanding and radiating outwards to audiences of all different backgrounds.

And...what is a more fitting image for a film festival than light? The key element in the medium of film is light; the director shouts, “lights...camera...action”; the projector reflects light on the screen; and as the Festival begins, searchlights light up the sky in celebration.

## Free Programmes

### “Family Day at the Festival”

On Saturday, May 10th the Toronto Jewish Film Festival will open the Bloor Cinema for an afternoon of free programming for children and families. Non-ticketed free Festival events are open to all on a first come, first served basis. Keep checking [www.tjff.com](http://www.tjff.com) for times and updates.

1:30 pm

### SING-ALONG/STORYTELLING

Join Koren Kassirer for a rousing English and Hebrew sing-along, followed by interactive storytelling. Koren is a teacher and children’s entertainer who has worked with children and adults for the past 10 years. She recently recorded a children’s CD and runs her own arts school.

3:00 pm

### THE CROWDED HOUSE – A MUSICAL PUPPET STORY

A crowded house in a European shtetl, a wise old rabbi, a hungry Golem, many, many animals...and a family with too little space. These are the delightful characters in Naomi Kates’ musical puppet story based on a Yiddish folk tale. This fun-filled show for all ages features such traditional Yiddish songs as Dire Gelt and Yankele as well as klezmer and other catchy tunes. In addition to arranging most of the music for The Crowded House, the multi-talented Kates also designed and built the amazing puppets in the show, using Roman Vishniac’s depiction of shtetl life in the thirties as inspiration.

### PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT BLOOR CINEMA

Through Others’ Eyes, selections from an innovative photography project of the Art Center at Givat Haviva, Israel, will be on display at the Bloor Cinema throughout Festival week. The exhibit showcases the photography of Jewish and Arab-Israeli high-school students, who visited each others’ villages and photographed each others’ homes and families.



Toronto Jewish  
Film Festival





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## TICKET ORDER FORM & ADVERTISING...CENTREFOLD

All films are subject to classification.

All films are presented in their original language with  
English subtitles, unless otherwise indicated.



## Opening Night Film

### **AMEN.**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**FRANCE, 2002, 35mm, 130 min.**

**Director: Costa-Gavras**

**Writers: Costa-Gavras, Jean-Claude Grumberg**

**Cast: Ulrich Tukur, Mathieu Kassovitz, Michel Duchaussoy**



What did Pope Pius XII and the Vatican know about the Holocaust? Why did they not do more to help save the Jews? Those two key queries are at the core of Costa-Gavras' gripping fact-based drama about Kurt Gerstein (Ulrich Tukur), an SS officer who, remarkably enough, spent the war trying to inform the world about the horrors of the Final Solution. A religious Protestant, Gerstein is shocked when he first witnesses the realities of the gas chambers. Immediately, he tells a Swedish diplomat what is

happening to the Jews of Europe and when that fails to generate any action, he approaches the Holy See for help. His only ally: Father Riccardo Fontana (Mathieu Kassovitz), a Jesuit Priest (and a composite of several priests who tried to save Jews from the Nazis), whose father is high up in the Vatican officialdom. The latest issue-oriented film from Costa-Gavras (*Z*, *Music Box*), the thoughtful and challenging *Amen.* poses questions some still do not want answered.

Professor Michael Marrus, who was part of the six member Jewish-Catholic team investigating the Vatican's role in the Holocaust, will be in attendance.

Winner, Best Film, Lumiere Awards, France, 2003

Screening: Saturday, May 3, 9:15 pm Festivities, 8:00 pm

Opening Night generously sponsored by







## Closing Night Film

### NICKY'S CHILDREN

WORLD PREMIERE

CZECH REPUBLIC, 2002, video, 55 min.

English, Hebrew, Czech with English subtitles

Director: Matej Minác

Narrator: Joe Schlesinger



Nicky's children are the "offspring" of Sir Nicholas Winton, who, as a 29-year-old London stockbroker on vacation in 1938, encountered the plight of Czech Jewish children facing death at the hands of the Nazis. Driven to action, he began a feverish campaign to convince the world to help save them. The creation of the Kindertransport, trains which brought 669 Jewish children to safety in England, was Nicholas Winton's brainchild and success. Modestly, he kept his remarkable accomplishments to himself. Then in 1988, his late wife Grete discovered his hidden scrapbooks, which brought his selfless acts to life and his heroism to the world's attention.

Among the children he saved: the late filmmaker Karel Reisz (*The French Lieutenant's Woman*), writer Vera Gissing (*Nicholas Winton and the Rescued Generation*), Lord Alfred Dubs and Canada's own Joe Schlesinger, the veteran CBC reporter who narrates the film. Referred to as Britain's Schindler, and already the fulcrum of one feature film (*All My Loved Ones*, TJFF 2001) and Academy Award-winning documentary (*Into The Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport*), the now 93-year-old Nicholas Winton was knighted by the Queen in March. *Nicky's Children* brings this remarkable man and his long ago acts to vivid life.

[This screening was made possible through the support of the CBC.](#)

[Joe Schlesinger and other Kindertransport survivors will be in attendance.](#)

[Screening: Sunday, May 11, 9:00 pm](#)

[Closing Night generously sponsored by  
THE EDWARD BRONFMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION](#)



## THE 11TH ANNUAL Toronto Jewish Film Festival

### ADIO KERIDA

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA, 2002, video, 58 min.

English, Spanish with English subtitles

Director: Ruth Behar

Narrator: Elisabeth Pena



Her family left when she was small but anthropologist Ruth Behar never lost her love for her Cuban birthplace. Returning regularly, she attempts to connect with those Sephardic Jews who stayed behind in Castro's Cuba and with her own family history, which was rudely interrupted by the Revolution. But can one return to a country one has never really lived in? Behar's lyrical journey into her Sephardic community's past, a trip her parents and brother refuse to contemplate, is a necessarily melancholy but also strangely upbeat travelogue, enlivened by actress Elisabeth Pena's poignant first person narration and Behar's sheer joy at being in her beloved Cuba. A Jewish Buena Vista Social Club with its own unique musical styling, *Adio Kerida* will stay with you.

Documentary Award, East Lansing Film Festival, Michigan, 2002

with

### JEWS IN ARMENIA

CANADIAN PREMIERE

POLAND / USA, 2003, video, 25 min.

Polish, Armenian, Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Vartan Akchyan

The unusual, mesmerizing story of the Jews of Armenia, who have undergone successive waves of acceptance, assimilation and revival. Are some of them remnants of one of the lost tribes of Israel? Are they authentically Jewish or are they non-Jews who have adopted some Jewish customs and rituals? Jews from distant lands - with a twist.

Screening: Monday, May 5, 11:00 am

Weekday Matinees presented by

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### ALL I'VE GOT

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2002, video, 62 min.

Hebrew with English subtitles

Writer / Director: Keren Margalit

Cast: Lea Szlanger, Nathan Gogan, Sylwia Trzesiowska



When 72-year-old Tamara passes on, she finds herself on a ship, heading across river to the afterlife. There she meets Uri, her first love, who died at age 22, and is offered a momentous choice. She can begin her life again with him, as a 22-year-old, but will have to give up all memories of her subsequent existence. Or she gets to stay as she is, at age 72,



## THE 11TH ANNUAL Toronto Jewish Film Festival

with her memories intact. A Ghost for the new millennium, All I've Got is a moving drama about the road not taken and what might have been.

Best Script Award, Fipa-Biarritz Film Festival, France, 2003  
Makor Foundation Best Producer Award: Etti Aneta, Michael Tapuach, Jerusalem Film Festival, 2002

with

### FOOLISH ME

**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**

**ISRAEL, 2002, video, 33 min.**

**Hebrew, Polish with English subtitles**

**Director: Gabriel Biblyovitch**

**Writers: Gabriel Biblyovitch, Ran Sarig**

**Cast: Kiril Sponov, Yamit Sol, Dori Teper, Agnieszka Wagner**

When two Jewish refugees in 1944 Europe enter a café, they're transported across the ocean to a café in Palestine. There they attempt to tell the Jews what's happening to their compatriots in Nazi-occupied Europe, even as a Polish woman follows them through the portal. An Israeli science-fiction journey, Foolish Me is a fantastical, original and thoughtful TV drama.

Screening: Monday, May 5, 1:00 pm

Spotlight on Women Filmmakers generously sponsored by



Weekday Matinees presented by



Official Newspaper Sponsor

### AMY'S ORGASM

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**USA, 2001, 35 mm, 86 min.**

**Writer / Director: Julie Davis**

**Cast: Julie Davis, Nick Chinlund, Caroline Aaron**



What do you do when you've written a best-selling book entitled Why Love Doesn't Work and then fall in love with just the type of guy you've warned your readers against? That's the dilemma facing popular self-help guru Amy Mandell (Julie Davis) after she tumbles for sexist radio shock jock Matthew Starr (Nick Chinlund from Training Day). Self-involved and determinedly celibate, she's given to confessing her sexual "sins" to the local priest (Jeff Cesario), even though she's Jewish. Mandell makes her comic way through a world filled with squabbling couples, would-be lovers and a whole mess of confused individuals. Funny, raunchy and off the wall, Amy's Orgasm is a kissing cousin to Sex and the City, replete with the same sharply drawn characters, knowing take on relationships and clever riffs on sex and love. Sure to be a cult hit.

Warning: Sexual scenes and explicit language

Writer/Director Julie Davis will be in attendance.

Screening: Saturday, May 10, 9:15 pm



## THE 11TH ANNUAL Toronto Jewish Film Festival

### ATLANTIC DRIFT

AUSTRIA / FRANCE, 2002, 35mm, 88 min.

English, German and Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Michel Daëron

When 2000 Jewish refugees fleeing Hitler boarded the ship, the Atlantic, they hoped to make it to Palestine - and safety. But they didn't reckon with the British, who stopped them from entering the country. Then, horribly, they deported them to, what were in effect, concentration camps in Mauritius, where amidst illness and deprivation, they sat out the war. Many years later, Hannah Haendel and her son Shlomo, who was born during the war, return to Mauritius to try to understand what happened to Hannah and why her husband had to die there. A heartbreaking, evocative portrait of a troubled man whose legacy and memories reside in his late father's paintings, Atlantic Drift is a moving and touching film. It's also a shocking and damning expose of a heretofore unknown and shameful slice of British history.

Screening: Tuesday, May 6, 1:00 pm

Weekday Matinees presented by

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### BENNY BENNY

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2002, video, 51 min.

Hebrew, Romanian with English subtitles

Writer / Director: Eitan Anner

Cast: Amnon Wolff, Hannah Hagin, Tatiana Kanlis-Olaïr

Jewish Bluish! Traffic cop Benny (Amnon Wolff) has a problem. He hates straight arrows, those honest citizens who obey all the rules and always do what they're told. A routine traffic stop reacquaints him with Mira (Hannah Hagin), a straitlaced Romanian dentist, and childhood crush, whom he decides to seduce at all costs. If you liked Late Marriage (TJFF 2002), you'll love the raunchy, witty and sharp Benny

Benny, which lampoons immigrants, Romeos and the age-old battle of the sexes with joyful abandon.

Warning: sexual situations and explicit language

with

### MINUS PLUS

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2001, 16mm, 22 min.

Writer / Director: Shahar Cohen

Obsessive inventor Shaul (Shahar Cohen) and girlfriend Yael (Yael Zucker) go to war against the electricity company, which wants to cut off their power. This David and Goliath battle doesn't end as you might expect. Another offbeat gem from the Sam Spiegel Film & Television School, Jerusalem.

Screening: Sunday, May 4, 9:45 pm

### BETWEEN THE LINES

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2001, video, 58 min

Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles

Director: Yifat Kedar



Of the numerous Israeli reporters covering the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, only one actually does so from a base within the Palestinian Authority. Meet Amira Hass, reporter for the left-wing daily Ha'aretz. Amira is the daughter of a Holocaust survivor and communist, whose liberal beliefs have brought her to a unique place in Israeli society. Though she



sympathizes with the Palestinians and is friends with many of the people she covers as a journalist, she still asks the hard questions - of both sides in the conflict. Driven, aware of her sacrifice of family and children in the pursuit of her career, and held in suspicion by many Israelis, Hass soldiers on. She's determined to report the truth as she sees it, even at risk of her life. An indelible picture of a brave, honest woman.

with

**THE EYE OF THE REPORTER**

**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**

**ISRAEL, 2002, video, 27 min.**

**English, Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles**

**Director: Guy Lynn**

Does the media report objectively on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Three reporters, from Britain, Israel and the Palestinian Authority, are profiled covering the hot spot known as Hebron. From the utter bias displayed by the Palestinian reporter to the serious attempt at neutrality by the Englishman, with the Israeli somewhere in between, *The Eye of the Reporter* goes beyond the headlines to smartly examine the men and women who generate them. From the Ordinary People TV series.

Screening: Friday, May 9, 1:00 pm

Weekday Matinees presented by

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**A BRIVELE DER MAMEN  
(A LETTER TO MOTHER)**

**POLAND, 1939, 35mm, 106 min.**

**Yiddish with English subtitles**

**Directors: Joseph Green, Leon Trystand**

**Writers: Mendl Osherwitz, Joseph Green,**

**Leon Trystand, Anatol Stern**

**Cast: Lucy Gehrman, Misha Gehrman,**

**Max Bozyk, Edmund Zeyenda**



The ultimate Mother's Day movie, *A Brivele Der Mamen* comes to the TJFF in a beautifully restored print by the National Center for Jewish Film. The mother Dobrish (Lucy Gehrman) tries to keep her poverty-stricken family together at all costs in pre-World War II Ukraine. With her husband away in America and war on the horizon, Dobrish perseveres, sacrificing everything for her brood but tragically falling short of her goals. Released to great acclaim in the U.S. two weeks after the Second World War broke out, *A Brivele Der Mamen* marked the high artistic point of Yiddish cinema, even as the Holocaust destroyed it forever. Perhaps, the greatest Yiddish film of them all.

Bring your Mother and she gets in free, as a gift from the Festival!

Dedicated to the memory of Jesse-Haberfeld Freedman  
and Louis Freedman.

Screening: Sunday, May 11, 1:00 pm





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### CLOSE, CLOSED, CLOSURE

TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL / FRANCE, 2002, video, 58 min.

English, Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles

Director: Ram Loevy



One of the casualties of the current Intifada has been the economic well-being of the over 1,000,000 Palestinians who live in the Gaza Strip. With entry to Israel largely closed to Arab workers, as a defensive measure after deadly Palestinian terrorist attacks, the unemployment rate among the dependent Gaza populace has, in some places, ballooned to 60 per cent. In this strong, forceful point-of-view documentary, highly respected Israeli filmmaker Ram Loevy (Mr. Mani, TJFF 1997) interviews the suffering residents of Gaza, which he terms a "huge prison", to understand where they're coming from. Their answers - and their anger - will disturb you.

Director Ram Loevy will be in attendance.

Screening: Sunday, May 4, 1:00 pm

### DISPLACED! MIRACLE AT ST. OTILLIEN

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA, 2003, video, 46 min.

Director: John Michalczyk



They survived the war but afterwards many of the displaced European Jewish refugees were quickly forgotten about by the victorious Allies. One such group was housed at an ancient Benedictine monastery in Germany, in conditions of illness, starvation and misery that nearly equalled the concentration camps themselves. Disturbed by what they saw, Bob Hilliard and Edward Herman, two 19-year-old American Jewish army privates, without any connections at all, set out to improve the survivors' abysmal living conditions. That they succeeded is miracle enough. That they managed to capture the ear of the American media, public and, remarkably, President Harry Truman himself, and actually effected a startling improvement in the refugees' lives, is nothing short of astounding. A true life thriller, *Displaced! Miracle at St. Otillien* is that rare movie that restores one's faith in the goodness of man.

Saul Shulman, who was at St. Otillien for three years, will be in attendance.

with



**A BRIDGE OF BOOKS**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**USA, 2001, video, 13 min.**

**Director: Sam Ball**

Founder of the National Yiddish Book Center, Aaron Lansky has, over the last twenty years, helped rescue 1.5 million Yiddish books from neglect and destruction. A Bridge of Books is the story of how he came to his mission in life, the archive he created from scratch, and the invaluable contribution he has made to Jewish continuity. From Sam Ball (co-director of Pleasures of Urban Decay, TJFF 2000).

Screening: Sunday, May 4, 5:15 pm

Programme generously sponsored by

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BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

**EPSTEIN'S NACHT (EPSTEIN'S NIGHT)**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**GERMANY, 2002, 35mm, 82 min.**

**German, French, Yiddish with English subtitles**

**Director: Urs Egger**

**Writer: Jens Urban**

**Cast: Mario Adorf, Günter Lamprecht, Bruno Ganz,  
Annie Girardot**

Released from prison, after serving fifteen years for murder, Jochen Epstein (Mario Adorf) is suddenly confronted by a woman from out of his past. Her arrival triggers his long suppressed memories—of the Nazi whose existence he uncovered in post-war Germany, of his two friends, brothers Adam and Karl Rose, and of the terrible secret from the concentration camps that the trio carries to this day. It's a tragic, mysterious and suspenseful story of three emotionally devastated Holocaust survivors who, even though they escaped death during the war, cannot forget the horrors that scarred them. A dark, disturbing but also highly compassionate film. With Bruno Ganz (The American Friend, Wings of Desire).

Director Urs Egger has been invited to attend.

Screening: Tuesday, May 6, 3:00 pm

Weekday Matinees presented by

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**GEBIRTIG**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**AUSTRIA / POLAND / GERMANY / USA, 2002,**

**35mm, 115 min.**

**English, German, Yiddish with English subtitles**

**Directors: Lukas Stepanik, Robert Schindel**

**Writers: Lukas Stepanik, Robert Schindel,**

**Georg Stefan Troller**

**Cast: Peter Simonischek, August Zimer,**

**Daniel Olbrychski, Ruth Rieser**

The destinies and memories of a diverse group of people collide when the existence of a noted Nazi, known as the Skull Cracker of the Ebensee concentration camp, is unearthed in Austria. Hermann Gebirtig is a Viennese Jewish composer, now living in New York, who's vowed never to return to Austria. Danny Demant is a Jewish entertainer in a satirical revue in Vienna, bent on provoking reaction from the complacent Viennese. Susanne Ressel, Danny's journalist girlfriend, is the angry daughter of an anti-Nazi communist, who was sent to Ebensee. The troubled Konrad Sachs, Susanne's former boss, is haunted by the knowledge that his father was an SS officer and war criminal. Hovering above them all is Austria itself, a country that has managed to cast itself as a victim of the war and not as the perpetrator of the genocide of its Jews. Powerful and uncompromising, Gebirtig is a reminder that the country of Kurt Waldheim, Joerg Haider and Hitler himself, has still not come to terms with its Nazi past.

Screening: Monday, May 5, 9:30 pm

Programme generously sponsored by

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## THE 11TH ANNUAL Toronto Jewish Film Festival

### GIRAFFES

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2001, 35mm, 115 min.

Hebrew with English subtitles

Writer / Director: Tzahi Grad

Cast: Mital Dohan, Liat Glick, Tinkerbell

Three women: Dafna, an actress; Avigail, a reporter; and Efrat, a secretary. When Avigail gets into a car meant to pick up Dafna for a day of shooting, and Dafna enters the vehicle of Avner, Efrat's blind date, the stage is set for a case of multiple mistaken identities and random chance encounters. Many months later the initial mixup leads to a woman seemingly falling to her death. That provocative scene, which actually begins the movie, is just one facet of this exceedingly odd and hypnotic drama. Well acted and beautifully shot, Giraffes will reel you into its fascinatingly original world. It's the new, fresh face of Israeli cinema.

Screening: Wednesday, May 7, 9:30 pm

### GOD IS GREAT...I AM VERY SMALL (DIEU EST GRAND, JE SUIS TOUTE PETITE)

TORONTO PREMIERE

FRANCE, 2001, 35mm, 98 min.

French with English subtitles

Director: Pascale Bailly

Writers: Pascale Bailly, Alain Tasma

Cast: Audrey Tatou, Edouard Baer, Julie Depardieu



When adorably flighty Michèle (Audrey Tatou) falls in love with Francois (Edouard Baer), an avowedly secular Jew, and she decides to convert to Judaism, the stage is set for a sharp comedy of manners, (mis) conceptions and the vagaries of love. The charming Audrey Tatou (Amélie, Dirty Pretty Things) anchors Pascale Bailly's savvy first feature, which is remarkably devoid of stereotypes, Jewish and otherwise, and typically, for the French, wise in the ways couples interact, play off of and fight with each other. Honest, unpredictable and slyly amusing, with deliberately off-kilter direction and jump cuts mirroring the pair's confusion and squabbling, God is Great marks the arrival of a fresh new talent on the film scene. Enjoy!

with

### KHASENJAH: THE JAMAICAN JEWISH WEDDING

WORLD PREMIERE

CANADA, 2003, video, 6 min.

Director: David Stein

A nice Jewish boy and an equally nice Jamaican girl are about to get married. They have all the love in the world to keep them together, but will their families' fear and mistrust of each other spoil the big day? An allegorical tale of inter-ethnic marriage and cultural collision from David Stein, who also directed this year's Festival trailer. This spirited performance piece features the original music of Beyond The Pale and the mesmerizing choreography of Kaeja d'Dance's Allen Kaeja (Sarah, TJFF 2000)

Screening: Monday, May 5, 7:15 pm

Spotlight on Women Filmmakers generously sponsored by





## THE GREAT DICTATOR

USA, 1940, 35mm, 128 min.

Writer / Director: Charles Chaplin

Cast: Charles Chaplin, Paulette Godard, Jack Oakie



Chaplin's classic comedy is back in a new sepia restored print. Boldly, Chaplin tackled Nazism in this satirical film, playing dual look-alike roles, as a Jewish barber and as the great dictator, Adenoid Hynkel, whose racist policies impact on the barber's life. (Jack Oakie played the other great dictator, Benito Mussolini.) Often screamingly funny, but with a serious subtext, *The Great Dictator* was daring and unique in that it actually dealt with the danger the Nazis posed to the Jews of Europe. Chaplin always felt that he should have gone further in his critique but *The Great Dictator* is a darkly comedic accomplishment. Sixty plus years later, it's still a cinematic standout.

Screening: Friday, May 9, 5:00 pm

## LA GUERRE A PARIS (THE WAR IN PARIS)

TORONTO PREMIERE

FRANCE, 2002, 35mm, 81 min.

French with English subtitles

Director: Yolande Zauberman

Writers: Yolande Zauberman, Gérard Brach

Cast: Jérémie Rénier, Grégoire Colin, Elodie Bouchez,  
Julien Le Gallou, Jean-Pierre Léaud

As the war rages on, the noose tightens around the Jews in occupied Paris. Two young Jewish men, Jules (Jérémie Rénier) and Thomas (Julien

Le Gallou), struggle to survive, but only Thomas attempts to fight back, joining the resistance and then brazenly stealing a gun belonging to a German officer. When Ana Maria (Elodie Bouchez of *The Dreamlife of Angels*), a Spanish communist fleeing Franco enters the picture, a love triangle develops. Meanwhile, Jules is being pressured by a French collaborationist policeman to turn informer, under threat of his parents being deported to the camps. A fast-moving, detailed portrait of French life under the Nazis, *La Guerre à Paris* is the newest emotionally powerful film from the director of the acclaimed *Ivan and Abraham* (1993).

Co-writer / Director Yolande Zauberman has been invited to attend.

with

## LES GALETS (SKIMMING STONES)

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

BELGIUM / FRANCE, 2002, video, 11 min.

French with English subtitles

Director: Micha Ward



Hiding out in the forest, an Orthodox Jewish family attempts to stay out of sight of the German officer who has appeared in their midst. A subtle and disquieting tale of survival.

Screening: Thursday, May 8, 5:00 pm

Spotlight on Women Filmmakers generously sponsored by





## THE 11TH ANNUAL Toronto Jewish Film Festival

### THE HEBREW HAMMER

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA, 2002, 35mm, 85 min.

Writer / Director: Jonathan Kesselman

Cast: Adam Goldberg, Andy Dick, Mario Van Peebles, Judy Greer, Peter Coyote



Jew Power! The Hebrew Hammer, aka Mordecai Jefferson Carver (Adam Goldberg), swings into action when Santa Claus' evil son, Damien (Andy Dick) decides to destroy Hanukkah. Allied with Muhammad Ali Paula Abdul Rahim (Mario Van Peebles), head of the Kwanzaa Liberation Front, Hammer, the self described 'baddest Hebe in the neighbourhood', prepares to kick some gentile ass. Throwing political correctness out the window, and guaranteed to offend everyone, The Hebrew Hammer is the most outrageous spoof to come along since The Producers. As the earlock-wearing, Manishewitz-swigging, leather-jacketed Hammer, Goldberg is a hoot, a tough as borscht super-hero who can't handle the pressure of saving the Jewish world or going home for a Sabbath dinner. Sacrilegious, fearless and hysterically funny!

Writer / Director Jonathan Kesselman will be in attendance.

with

### A FEVER IN THE BLOOD

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

UNITED KINGDOM, 2002, 35mm, 11 min.

Writer / Director: Andrew Pulver

Hard-boiled, florid private eye Victor Shapiro (Martin McDougall), has just gotten one ear bitten

off by a culprit and promptly has lost his hearing in his other one. What's a hearing impaired detective to do? A quirky, flamboyantly funny tale based on a short story by producer/writer Ethan Coen (O' Brother, Where Art Thou? Fargo).

Winner, Kodak / BAFTA Short Film Showcase, London, 2002

Screening: Thursday, May 8, 9:30 pm

### A HOME ON THE RANGE: THE JEWISH CHICKEN FARMERS OF PETALUMA

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA, 2002, video, 52 min.

Directors: Bonnie Burt, Judith Monetell



A little-known slice of American Jewish history is unearthed in Bonnie Burt's and Judith Montell's touching and rollicking tale of the hardy, unlikely Jewish chicken farmers of Petaluma, California. Coming to a new world, early in the last century, with no agricultural background at all, these Eastern European immigrants quickly settled down to raise poultry, a distinct deviation from the career paths of other American Jews. Their funny, provocative and even occasionally life-threatening experiences form the backbone of this illuminating, witty documentary. An unforgettable portrait of some very unique individuals.

with





**SONG OF A JEWISH COWBOY**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**USA, 2002, video, 18 min.**

**Director: Bonnie Burt**

Scott Gerber, one of the interviewees in *A Home on the Range*, speaks about his music, his farming background, his progressive political beliefs and his love of Yiddish. A telling portrait of a one-of-a-kind Yiddisher cowboy, singer and farmer.

*Scott Gerber will perform live after the screening.*

*Screening: Wednesday, May 7, 7:15 pm*

*Spotlight on Women Filmmakers generously sponsored by*



**JENIN DIARY - THE INSIDE STORY**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**ISRAEL, 2002, video, 65 min.**

**Hebrew with English subtitles**

**Director: Gil Mezuman**

In April 2002, thirteen Israeli soldiers from the Mesaya'at company of the Nachson Battalion lost their lives during an anti-terrorist mission in the Jenin refugee camp. Their casualty rate made up more than half of all the soldiers killed during the Israeli army sweep into Jenin, which was a response to the Palestinian massacre of Israelis at a Passover seder in Netanya. *Jenin Diary - The Inside Story*, directed by Gil Mezuman, one of the members of the reserve company, tracks the shell-shocked reservists, who are a mix of religious and secular Jews, as they try to deal with this devastating blow to their morale, emotions and peace of mind. Moving, disquieting and utterly compelling, *Jenin Diary - The Inside Story* is a rare behind-the-scenes glimpse into the Israeli military and the often conflicted soldiers who continue to make enormous sacrifices for their country.

*Screening: Thursday, May 8, 3:15 pm*

*Weekday Matinees presented by*



*Official Newspaper Sponsor*

**LOOKING AT OURSELVES: THE AMERICAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE ON FILM (TALK)**



The TJFF is proud to present a fascinating talk by writer / distributor Eric Goldman on film and the image of the American Jew. A look at American films focusing on the Jewish experience provides a most unusual perspective on the twentieth century American Jew - the way the Jew sees him/herself and how others perceive him. Clips from classic films, such as *The Jazz Singer*, *Gentleman's Agreement*, *The Young Lions*, *Avalon* and *Focus*, will be used to illustrate how, through the years, filmmakers have created and packaged their own unique concept of the American Jew and how this was filtered through their own consciousness. *Looking at Ourselves* is sure to provoke much discussion afterwards.

*Eric Goldman distributes films, videos and DVDs, through his company Ergo Media and is the author of several books, including Visions, Images and Dreams: Yiddish Film Past and Present. For more information check out his web site - [www.jewishvideo.com](http://www.jewishvideo.com)*

*with*

**JOHN GARFIELD**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**USA, 2002, video, 9 min.**

**Director: Mark Rapaport**

Born Julius Garfinkle, John Garfield was set to become a movie star on the scale of Humphrey Bogart. But the Hollywood blacklist and a heart condition contributed to his death, in 1952, at age 39. Utilizing only film clips from John Garfield's career (*Body and Soul*, *Gentleman's Agreement*), this



## THE 11TH ANNUAL Toronto Jewish Film Festival

skillful mini-bio gets under the skin of a Jewish actor who brought a unique ethnic sex appeal to the screen.

Date: Sunday, May 11, 11:00 am

### A MATCH MADE IN SEVEN

CANADA, 2002, video, 46 min.

Director: Ilan Saragosti



Invented by Orthodox rabbis in Los Angeles to stem the tide of intermarriage, SpeedDating has taken off in North America with a vengeance. In seven-minute quickie dates, men and women meet, talk and, hopefully, connect. A Match Made in Seven chronicles Vancouver's first SpeedDating event, and the four Jewish thirtysomethings who hope to meet a soul-mate by participating in it. Intimate, occasionally sad, but finally uplifting, A Match Made in Seven is a charmer.

Audience Award, Best Documentary, Temecula Valley International Film Festival, 2002  
Chris Award, Bronze Plaque, Columbus International Film & Video Festival, Ohio, 2002

Director Ilan Saragosti will be in attendance.

Screening: Saturday, May 10, 11:30 pm

Programme presented by



THINK FREE

A SpeedDating event will take place after the screening. Meet Jewish singles and participate in Social Scene's first Midnight Madness SpeedDating event. We have partnered with Canada's leading singles event company to provide a great package, including movie admission and the SpeedDating event for \$39. Complete details can be found at [www.socialscene.ca](http://www.socialscene.ca) or call 416 499 2399.

### MAYOR OF THE WEST SIDE

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA, 2002, video, 50 min.

Director: Judd Ehrlich



On the verge of celebrating his Bar Mitzvah, mentally challenged 18-year-old Mark Puddington is buoyed by the constant, loving and unstinting support of his devoted mother, even as she worries about what he'll do when she's gone. An unsentimental look at the disabled, Mayor of the West Side, which is Mark's nickname in the neighbourhood, asks whether there is such a thing as too much love and what happens when someone is pushed to finally make it on his own. Against the backdrop of his exceptionally moving religious ceremony, Mark's family, including his father and brother, express their own concerns about his uncertain future. Sad and inspiring in equal measure, Mayor of the West Side is a remarkable portrait of an unforgettable character.

with



## THE 11TH ANNUAL Toronto Jewish Film Festival

### THE COLLECTOR OF BEDFORD STREET

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA, 2002, 16mm, 34 min.

Director: Alice Elliott



Larry Selman, a 60-year-old mentally challenged man, raises thousands of dollars for charity each year, even though his own life is poverty-stricken, with only an aged uncle looking out for his welfare. Fearing for his safety and well-being, residents from Larry's New York neighbourhood, including the filmmaker, band together to create a trust fund for him so he can continue living on his own. A hopeful look at community, even in the supposedly cold environs of The Big Apple, *The Collector of Bedford Street* is a poignant journey into the life of an unconventional but well-loved man who inspires us all.

Nominee, Best Live Action Short, Academy Awards, 2003

Screening: Wednesday, May 7, 1:00 pm

Weekday Matinees presented by

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### MOMENTS - SPECIAL PRESENTATION

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2002, video, 56 min.

Hebrew, Arabic, Russian with English subtitles

Directors: Dina Zvi Riklis, Eliav Liti, Shlomit Altman,

Oded Davidoff, Gur Bentwich, Nir Miterraso,

Thaer Zeabi, Anat Even, Eyal Zaid, Uri Bar-On,

Amos Gitai, Tsipi Houri, Rafi Bukaei, David Perlov,

Idan Alterman, Nira Sherman, Sausan Quoud,

Uri Barbash, Ariella Azouly, Eyal Halfon



Twenty filmmakers. Seventeen short films. The current Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Result: A striking mix of comedy, drama, satire and documentary reflecting on the violence, hopes, fears, aspirations and anger of the Israelis and Palestinians. From Dina Zvi Riklis' sublime sketch of the sights and sounds of Tel Aviv before the onset of the suicide bombings, to Eyal Halfon's pessimistic anticipation of his newborn son's future life in Israel, *Moments* runs the gamut of moods and emotions. Commissioned by the Jerusalem Film Festival, the film goes beyond the headlines to craft a comprehensive, complex, inside look at Israel today.

Screening: Sunday, May 11, 7:30 pm



## THE 11TH ANNUAL Toronto Jewish Film Festival

### MONSIEUR BATIGNOLE

FRANCE, 2002, 35mm, 99 min.

French with English subtitles

Director: Gérard Jugnot

Writers: Philippe Lopes Curval, Gérard Jugnot

Cast: Gérard Jugnot, Jules Sitruk, Jean-Paul Rouve



Like many Frenchman in German-occupied Paris, butcher Edmond Batignole (played by director Gérard Jugnot) is getting by. He makes a little profit off the black market, deals grudgingly with the Germans and turns a blind eye to what's happening to his Jewish neighbours. When young Simon Bernstein, whose family lived upstairs from the Batignoles, shows up, having escaped deportation and needing his help, Batignole's conscience is belatedly awakened. A sentimental but honest portrait of wartime France and a lovely tale of a budding friendship, Monsieur Batignole will touch you deeply.

Screening: Thursday, May 8, 1:00 pm

Weekday Matinees presented by

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### MY NAME WAS SABINA SPIELREIN

SWEDEN / SWITZERLAND / DENMARK / FINLAND, 2002,

video, 90 min.

English, German with English subtitles

Director: Elisabeth Márton



She was known as a footnote in the annals of psychoanalysis and briefly mentioned in the existing correspondence between Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung. In 1977, the newly discovered diaries and letters of Sabina Spielrein revealed that she was so much more. The first client treated by Jung in analysis, the young Jewish woman went on to meet and work with Freud and became one of the first female psychoanalysts. (She was also the first to write about schizophrenia in children.) Spielrein, who heavily influenced Freud in many particulars, may have had a love affair with the womanising Jung, and, tragically, lost her life in the Holocaust, a fate that ended up relegating her to the back pages of history. A powerful, provocative depiction of a trailblazer who never received the appreciation she deserved in life.

Screening: Thursday, May, 8, 11:00 am

Weekday Matinees presented by

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## MY TERRORIST

ISRAEL, 2002, video, 59 min.

English, Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Yulie Cohen Gerstel



In 1978, El Al flight attendant Yulie Cohen was shot and wounded by a Palestinian terrorist in London. The attack also resulted in the death of another young Israeli woman. Twenty-two years later, Yulie, despite fearing for her own daughters' lives at the hands of Palestinian suicide bombers, decides to reach out to her jailed assailant, and forgive him. Does she have the right to do such a thing, especially when other Israeli mothers continue to lose their children to terrorism? In examining one woman's moral dilemma, the provocative *My Terrorist* asks hard questions about the meaning of forgiveness and hate, the inevitability of violence and, just possibly, about the chance of reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis.

Screening: Wednesday, May 7, 5:30 pm

## THE NAZI OFFICER'S WIFE

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA, 2003, video, 98 min.

English, German and Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Liz Garbus

Narrator: Susan Sarandon



Young, stubborn and self-involved, Edith Hahn led a spoiled existence in pre-World War II Vienna. When the war began, she faced the prospect of deportation, along with Austria's other Jews, to the concentration camps. Convincing a German friend to give away her passport - and identity - a desperate Edith fled to Munich to live as an Aryan. Once safely disguised in Germany, incredibly, Edith married a Nazi. She had a child with him, and managed to put her previous existence behind her. Was Edith understandably trying to survive any way she could or was she an uncaring soul whose only concern was herself? Interviewed in Israel, where she now lives, Edith, who wrote a book on her life, reveals her tumultuous history and defends her seemingly selfish actions. Disturbingly, *The Nazi Officer's Wife* is a true-life story without any easy or comforting answers. What would you do in Edith's place?

Screening: Friday, May 9, 11:00 am

Weekday Matinees presented by

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## THE 11TH ANNUAL Toronto Jewish Film Festival

### ONLY IN AMERICA

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA, 2003, video, 72 min.

Director: Ron Frank



Only in America! Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman said those momentous words after he was chosen by Al Gore as the first ever Jew to run for the office of Vice-President. Interviews with comedian Alan King, historian Arthur Hertzberg, as well as Lieberman himself, his wife Hadassah, who is the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, and his proud 83-year-old mother Marcia, round out this revealing and heartwarming portrayal of a self-deprecating, modest man. Having announced his candidacy for the American Presidency in 2004, his importance as a Jewish trailblazer is more apparent than ever.

with

An eight-minute news item from CBC News: Sunday, on another trailblazer, Col. Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut in space, who died tragically last February in the Columbia spaceship explosion. As a Jew, as an Israeli, and as a questing human being trying to reach the stars, he brought honour to us all.

The Ilan Ramon item was made possible through the support of the CBC.

Dedicated to the memory of Col. Ilan Ramon.

Screening: Sunday, May 11, 3:15 pm

### RECONSTRUCTION

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA, 2001, video, 90 min.

English, Romanian, Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Irene Lusztiig



On September 18, 1959, Monica and Igor Seviaru were arrested, along with four other men, for the "crime" of robbing an armoured car of one million (Rumanian) lei, en route to a branch of the Romanian National Bank. All six of the alleged criminals were Jews, and except for Monica, who served five years in prison, all were sentenced to death by the Communist state. Before the men were executed, they, along with Monica, were coerced into starring in Reconstituirea (Reenactment), a dramatic feature-length propaganda film, which recreated the crime and their arrest. Forty years later, director Irene Lusztiig, grandchild of Monica and Igor, set out to reconstruct the events of that time, now shrouded in mystery and lost in memory. Did the group actually commit the robbery? Or, more likely, were they innocent victims of a post-Stalinist anti-Semitic purge? The lack of clear answers about the case and Lusztiig's dogged determination to unearth the truth makes for a compelling excursion into the past.

Rediscoveries/Discoveries Award, Boston Society of Film Critics, 2001  
Certificate of Merit, San Francisco International Film Festival, 2001  
Best Documentary, New England Film Festival, 2001

Screening: Tuesday, May 6, 11:00 am

Weekday Matinees presented by

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## **SAMY Y YO (SAMY AND I)**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**ARGENTINA, 2002, video, 85 min.**

**Spanish with English subtitles**

**Writer / Director: Eduardo Milewicz**

**Cast: Ricardo Darin, Angie Cepeda, Alejandra Flechner**

Meet Samy Goldstein (Ricardo Darin), a Jewish sad sack TV writer, who's about to turn 40, with a girlfriend who treats him like dirt and a life which is going nowhere. Then he meets the tempestuous, sexy Mary and before you can say Woody Allen, Samy is the star of his own TV show, which plays off his deepest fears and confusions for laughs. Of course, Samy is still unhappy being a TV star. Waiting in the wings, however, is his overbearing mother, who wouldn't mind a show of her own. A charming confection, *Samy Y Yo* offers up the new Jewish face of Argentina. Misery was never so much fun.

Special Jury Prize, Wolgin award, Jerusalem Film Festival, 2002

Screening: Tuesday, May 6, 7:30 pm

Programme generously sponsored by LINDA AND WILL HECHTER

## **SECRET LIVES: HIDDEN CHILDREN AND THEIR RESCUERS DURING WORLD WAR II**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**USA, 2002, 35mm, 71 min.**

**English, French, Polish with English subtitles**

**Director: Aviva Slesin**



The Righteous Gentiles, non-Jews who saved Jews during the time of the Holocaust, remain a source of fascination and admiration for many. Why, when so many were apathetic, did others risk their lives, and even the lives of others, to rescue their fellow Jewish citizens, including thousands of children? And how did those children cope with being uprooted from their parents and "forced" to live with strangers for years? In *Secret Lives: Hidden Children and their Rescuers During World War II*, Academy award-winning director Aviva Slesin (*The Ten Year Lunch: The Wit and Legend of the Algonquin Round Table*), herself hidden by Lithuanians as a baby, profiles those brave, unique individuals, from France, Lithuania, Poland, Belgium and Holland and the children whom they sheltered. From varying political and religious backgrounds and from different classes, each of the rescuers acted according to their consciences, without worrying about the consequences had they been caught. They speak out, many for the first time, about what compelled them to take extraordinary chances in the service of decency. Interviewed, touchingly, alongside those they saved, these heroes and heroines modestly declaim anything special about their brave acts. But there's nothing modest about their extraordinary accomplishments nor about this inspirational, moving film.

Director Aviva Slesin will be in attendance.

Screening: Thursday, May 8, 7:15 pm

Programme generously sponsored by



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Investment Counsel



## SHALOM IRELAND

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**IRELAND, 2003, video, 56 min.**

**Director: Valerie Lapin Ganley**



Since the 1860s, Jews have flourished in Ireland. An emotional connection between the oppressed (by the British) Catholics and the Jews fleeing persecution in Eastern Europe, combined with minimal anti-Semitism, allowed Jews to thrive in towns like Dublin, Cork and (mostly) Limerick. (The first Jewish Lord mayor of Dublin, the colourful Robert Briscoe, was elected as early as 1956.) But the once 5000 strong community is now down to 1200 souls and the future of Ireland's Jews is in doubt. The highly engaging *Shalom Ireland* introduces us to a community we know little about, even as, ironically, its days seem to be numbered.

Director Valerie Lapin Ganley will be in attendance.

with

## THE BOMBAY JEWS

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**CANADA, 2002, video, 30 min.**

**English, Hindi, Marathi with English subtitles**

**Director: Rajesh Latkar**

The storied history of the Jews of Bombay (Mumbai), who have lived there for centuries, their acceptance in multicultural India and their own unique religious practices. A loving look at an atypical Jewish community.

Screening: Sunday, May 4, 3:00 pm

## SHALOM Y'ALL

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**USA, 2002, video, 55 min.**

**Director: Brian Bain**

For almost three hundred years, even preceding the American Revolution, there have been Jews living in the U.S. South. Growing up as a Southern Jew was something that New Orleans-born Brian Bain never thought twice about. As an adult, however, he's grown more curious about his Southern Jewish roots. Beginning with his 99-year-old grandfather, a New York born Jew who made a living selling hats in the South, Bain sets out to decipher what it means to be Southern --- and Jewish. From Texas country-rock singer Kinky Friedman (Kinky Friedman: Proud to be an Asshole from El Paso, TJFF 2002) to Reuben Greenberg, the African-American Jewish police chief of Charleston, South Carolina, to a crinoline wearing Southern Jewish Belle who works as a tour guide in Georgia, Bain encounters various colourful representatives of the Dixie Diaspora. They all have their theories about what makes them unique. Their feelings about their neighbour's Southern racism and their own perceived Jewish identity are just some of the pieces of the puzzle that Bain puts together. Like its subjects, *Shalom Y'All* is a documentary with a difference.

with

## THE BELIEVERS OF THE ISLAND OF TOLERANCE

**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**

**POLAND, 2002, video, 26 min.**

**Polish with English subtitles**

**Director: Jan Sosinski**

The ancient Jewish community of Djerba, Tunisia, has managed to peacefully co-exist with its Arab neighbours to this day. Carrying out traditional Jewish rituals, albeit with a Middle Eastern twist, Djerba's Jews celebrate marriages, Bar Mitzvahs and holidays with distinct pleasure. Another fascinating account of the lives of Jews in distant lands.



## THE 11TH ANNUAL Toronto Jewish Film Festival

Screening: Wednesday, May 7, 11:00 am

Weekday Matinees presented by

**TORONTO STAR**

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### SHANGHAI GHETTO

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA, 2002, 35mm, 95 min.

English, German and Chinese with English subtitles

Directors: Dana Janklowicz-Mann, Amir Mann

Narrator: Martin Landau



Escaping certain death in Europe, 10,000 Jewish refugees managed to reach Shanghai, China, before the outbreak of the Second World War. China was one of the few countries the Jews could get into without a passport and, more importantly, one of the few places on earth which took them in. In Shanghai, the penniless Jews eked out a meagre living, among equally poor Chinese, all the while worrying about their families trapped in Nazi-occupied Europe. Even when the Japanese invaded the city and ghettoized the Jews, fortune still smiled upon them. The story of the Shanghai Jews has been filmed before (The Port of Last Resort, TJFF 2000) but never with such clarity, depth and poignancy. The interviews, including those with co-director Dana Janklowicz-Mann's father, are uniformly penetrating and memorable and the anecdotes related by these hardy survivors are remarkable in their emotional effect. One of the few inspirational stories to come out of the Holocaust, Shanghai Ghetto, which brilliantly recreates what daily life was like then, is history brought to thrilling, vivid life.

Audience Choice Award, Best Documentary, Santa Barbara International Film Festival, 2002

Betty Grebenschikoff, a Shanghai Ghetto survivor profiled in the film and author of a book on her experiences, "Once My Name Was Sara", will be in attendance.

Vivian Kaplan, a Toronto Shanghai Ghetto survivor and author of a new book, "Ten Green Bottles: Vienna to Shanghai - Journey of Fear and Hope", will introduce the film. Read an excerpt of her book in the insert portion of the programme book.

Screening: Sunday, May 11, 5:00 pm

Programme generously sponsored by THE GERALD SCHWARTZ AND HEATHER REISMAN FOUNDATION

### THANATOS & EROS - THE BIRTH OF THE HOLY FREAK

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA / GERMANY, 2002, video, 59 min.

English, German with English subtitles

Director: Karl Nussbaum



What is the real meaning of love? What is the real feeling of death? Karl Nussbaum (Raw Images of the Optic Cross, TJFF 1999) offers up another grippingly haunting and experimental examination of the Holocaust and how it has shaped (and warped) us all. Whether it's uncomfortably prying into his parents' unique courtship and marriage or being brutally honest about his own conflicted feelings about women, sex and death, Nussbaum goes places no other filmmaker would dare. Blending startling images of pop culture, including a Jewish take on the Frankenstein and Dracula myths, with film shot during Nussbaum's emotionally wrenching road trip



across Germany, Thanataos & Eros - The Birth of the Holy Freak is a psychological tour de force. A uniquely meditative rumination on mortality and memory.

Warning: Scenes of explicit sexuality

with

**MEMOIRES INCERTAINES**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**FRANCE, 2002, 35mm, 36 min.**

**English, French with English subtitles**

**Director: Michale Boganim**

Was he a World War II resistance fighter? Did he spy for the Mossad? Was he a croupier in a casino or was that a cover for something else? The mystery of who and what Michale Boganim's Great Uncle Henry was, has haunted her family for years. Each family member has a different take on the mysterious man and each specific memory of him only clouds his identity further. Elliptical, ravishing, oblique and even infuriating, *Mémoires Incertaines* raises questions it cannot answer. In the process, however, it also weaves cinematic magic out of the stuff of a family legend. From London's Film & Television School and the director of *Dust* (TJFF 2002).

also with

**ONCE**

**CANADA, 2002, video, 12 min.**

**English, Yiddish with English subtitles**

**Director: Ellen Flanders**

Young and older men and women speak about memory, loss, pain and their relationship to and love of the Yiddish language. Haunting.

Dedicated by the filmmaker to the memory of TJFF co-founder Debra Plotkin (1954-2000).

Director Ellen Flanders will be in attendance.

Screening: Tuesday, May 6, 9:30 pm

**TO LIVE WITH TERROR: THE UNSOLVED  
ATTACKS IN BUENOS AIRES**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**USA, 2002, video, 58 min.**

**English, Spanish, Hebrew with English subtitles**

**Director: Ton Vriens**

In the 1990s, the Jewish community of Argentina was rocked by two terrorist attacks in Buenos Aires: the 1992 car bombing of the Israeli embassy and the 1994 truck bombing of AMIA, the Jewish community centre. Over one hundred people, Jews and non-Jews, died in the two bombings. To this day, the culprits for the murders have not been brought to justice but the suspects, which include Hezbollah, Iran and a corrupt, anti-Semitic police department, are many. (The Argentine government recently issued international warrants for the arrest of four Iranians suspected of involvement in the AMIA bombing.) *To Live with Terror* places these brazen murders in the context of historical anti-Semitism in Argentina, ex-Argentine President Carlos Menem's ties to the Arab world and even Israeli government reluctance to pressure the Argentineans to investigate the crimes. *To Live with Terror* is a galvanizing plea for justice and a demand that, finally, the truth be told.

with

**ASESINO**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**ISRAEL, 2002, video, 57 min.**

**Hebrew, Spanish with English subtitles**

**Director: Nurit Kedar**

Of the 30,000 Argentineans who "disappeared" during the reign of the Argentinean junta in the 1970s and early 1980s, a disproportionate number, about 3000, were Jews. *Asesino* profiles the victims, who were murdered by the virulently anti-Semitic military, and their anguished families, whose lives were torn asunder by what happened to their loved ones. Those families also cry out for the justice denied them when amnesty was given to the military officials implicated in the torture and killings.





In one arresting, startling scene, residents try to shame one of the murderers and chase him out of the quiet neighbourhood where he has retreated to live. A raw examination of a country's wound that has still not healed.

Art of Cinema Award, Outstanding Israeli Filmmaker,  
Jerusalem Film Festival, 2002

Screening: Wednesday, May 7, 3:00 pm

Weekday Matinees presented by

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## THE TRAMP AND THE DICTATOR

UK, 2002, video, 58 min.

**Directors:** Kevin Brownlow, Michael Kloft

**Narrator :** Kenneth Branagh



Though born in the same week in April 1889, and with similar childhood backgrounds, Adolf Hitler and Charlie Chaplin could not have been more different. One, a failed artist, became a ruthless dictator and murderer. The other, a successful comedian and movie star, became a beloved world figure. The Tramp and the Dictator connects them through one film, The Great Dictator, where Chaplin comedically attacked Hitler and his actions. With newly unearthed colour footage of the black and white classic film, this fascinating documentary delves into the controversial background of the movie, which was actually opposed by the assimilated Jewish moguls in Hollywood. Iron-

ically, the Nazis had always assumed that Chaplin was Jewish, which might have motivated him to make the film. Whatever the truth, The Tramp and the Dictator casts a beloved movie classic - and its talented creator - in a welcome new light.

with

## THE PAWNSHOP

USA, 1916, 16mm, 20 min.

**Director:** Charles Chaplin

In The Pawnshop, Charlie plays a hapless assistant to a Jewish pawnshop owner, who is fired but then redeemed when he confronts and bests a robber. One of Chaplin's funniest silent films.

Screening: Friday, May 9, 3:00 pm

Weekday Matinees presented by

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## A TRUMPET IN THE WADI

ISRAEL, 2001, video, 97 min.

Hebrew, Arabic, Russian with English subtitles

**Directors:** Lina Chaplin, Slava Chaplin

**Writer:** Amit Leor

**Cast:** Alexander Sendorovich, Khawlah Hag-Debsy,  
Raeda Adon

An Israeli Romeo and Juliet love story set against the backdrop of Middle Eastern tensions. Alex (Alexander Sendorovich), a newly arrived Russian-Jewish immigrant musician, has rented an apartment from a Christian-Arab family in the Wadi neighbourhood of Haifa. Relatively liberal, but still mistrustful of Jews, they are not too concerned about the budding friendship between Alex and the independent-minded Huda (Khawlah Hag-Debsy), the oldest daughter in the family. That is... until their friendship turns to love. Lina and Slava Chaplin, Russian immigrants to Israel themselves, have adapted Sami Michael's Israeli bestseller (which comes out in English in August) with tact and



## THE 11TH ANNUAL Toronto Jewish Film Festival

sensitivity. Excellently acted, this provocative, original tale of forbidden passion is one of the finest Israeli films of recent years and a window into a little seen part of Israeli life.

Best Film, Haifa Film Festival, 2001

Screening: Monday, May 5, 3:00 pm

Weekday Matinees presented by

**THE TORONTO STAR**

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### TRUTH, LIES, AND VIDEOTAPE (PANEL)

Is it possible for a filmmaker to capture "The Truth" in a time of war, when belief systems and respective definitions of good and evil, right and wrong, are so firmly entrenched on either side? Point-of-view documentary films, in particular, usually attempt to portray an accurate and compelling "truth" from one perspective. As this publication goes to press, a war in Iraq is raging. Will world opinion have an effect on the outcome of events? Will it influence a resolution to the Middle East conflict, which continues to be at the centre of the storm? And...what is the responsibility of the filmmaker in this context? A TJFF panel of respected filmmakers and journalists discuss these issues that continue to matter in our turbulent times.

Date: Sunday, May 4, 11:00 am

### UNDYING LOVE: TRUE STORIES OF COURAGE AND FAITH

CANADA, 2002, video, 88 min.

English, German and Yiddish with English subtitles

Director: Helene Klodawsky



One of the most ironic aspects of the Holocaust is that it often threw together men and women whose relationships would never have developed if not for the Shoah. In the moving *Undying Love*, Montreal-based Torontonians Helene Klodawsky interviews twelve survivors, including her mother, whose love stories took place during and just after the Second World War, when survival was the key thing and romantic feelings were often a luxury. Whether it was love at first sight or a love that needed time to gel, these wonderfully witty and frank raconteurs, who are mainly residents of Toronto, tell how they met, felt, and finally united in an attempt to recreate their shattered lives. With expert dramatisations of their stories and illustrated with appropriate clips from romantic Hollywood and Yiddish films, *Undying Love* pays heartfelt tribute to the redemptive power of love.

Note: This is the uncut version of the film.

Director Helene Klodawsky and many of the film's subjects will be in attendance.

Screening: Tuesday, May 6, 5:00 pm

Spotlight on Women Filmmakers generously sponsored by





## **UNFAIR COMPETITION (CONCURRENZA SLEALE)**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**ITALY, 2001, 35mm, 120 min.**

Italian with English subtitles

**Director: Ettore Scola**

**Writers: Silvia Scola, Giacomo Scarpelli, Furio Scarpelli**

**Cast: Diego Abatantuono, Sergio Castellitto, Gérard**

**Depardieu, Anita Zagaria**



From master Italian filmmaker Ettore Scola (*A Special Day*, *The Family*) comes a poignant, powerful tale of racism, responsibility and the slow awakening of a buried conscience. Tailor Umberto Melchiorri (Diego Abatantuono), who specializes in upper-end clothing, is constantly feuding with neighbour and fellow tailor Leone Simeoni (Sergio Castellitto), a newcomer whose less expensive product and snappier store displays are beginning to eat into Umberto's profits. The feud, which has its comic elements, seems relatively harmless even after Mussolini institutes race laws, restricting Jewish movement and livelihood. But when the gentile Umberto makes an anti-Semitic comment to the Jewish Leone, everything suddenly changes—for the worse. A subtle, unblinking look at bigotry in an ostensibly tolerant country, *Unfair Competition* weaves a quietly seductive web, drawing us into the lives of the two men, and examining how each of them is forced to deal with circumstances in a sad new world. It's a devastating and unique depiction of sublimated anti-Semitism and the impact it has when it finally comes to life.

Screening: Sunday, May 4, 7:15 pm

Programme generously sponsored by  
**STEPHEN AND COOKIE SANDLER**

## **Y.I.D. - YEHUDEEM IN THE DIASPORA**

**CANADA, 2002, video, 69 min.**

English, Hebrew with English subtitles

**Director: Igal Hecht**



Are the Israeli Jews who live in Toronto really an accepted part of the larger Jewish community in the city? Some say they are not. From the commonly expressed Canadian-Jewish perception of Israelis as arrogant and pushy to the latter's views, in turn, of Canadian-born Jews as passive and weak, *Y.I.D.* attempts to bridge the great divide between the two groups. A disquieting look at two new solitudes in Toronto.

Director Igal Hecht and producer Ron Furman will be in attendance.

with

## **FALAFEL**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**Canada, 2002, video, 10 min.**

**Director: Avner Levona**

Are the best falafels made in Israel? And if so, why? Avner Levona visits a falafel restaurant in Toronto to ask these hard questions and along the way, samples a sandwich or two. A tasty movie about a tasty dish.

Director Avner Levona will be in attendance.

Screening: Monday, May 5, 5:00 pm



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