



THE 12TH ANNUAL Toronto Jewish Film Festival

May 1 - 9, 2004

(416) 324 - 9121

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NEWTALK

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Festival At A Glance

TJFF 2004

VARSAITY CINEMA

SATURDAY, MAY 1

Opening Night

9:30 pm - Behind Enemy Lines, 65 min./
Strangers, 7 min.

BLOOR CINEMA

SUNDAY, MAY 2

11:00 am - Mame-Loshn, Kinder-Loshn, 54 min./
Dora, 18 min.
1:00 pm - The Wall, 54 min./
Une Barriere Contre La Terreur, 25 min.
3:30 pm - Nobody Swings on Sunday, 52 min./
All U Can Eat, 13 min.
5:30 pm - The Chosen People, 65 min.
7:30 pm - Le Tango des Rashevski, 97 min.
9:45 pm - Yossi & Jagger, 65 min.

MONDAY, MAY 3

11:00 am - Permission to Remember, 57 min./
Sendler's List, 45 min.
1:15 pm - Promised Land, 52 min./
A Dream of Mother, 27 min.
3:15 pm - Blood from a Stone, 83 min.
5:30 pm - Impact of Terror, 52 min.
7:15 pm - The Children of Abraham & Sophie, 95 min.
9:45 pm - Abjad, 108 min.

TUESDAY, MAY 4

10:45 am - The March of the Living, 49 min./
The Last Witness, 48 min.
1:00 pm - Forget Baghdad, 114 min.
3:30 pm - Emma Goldman: An Exceedingly
Dangerous Woman, 87 min.
5:45 pm - The Main Suspect, 61 min.
7:15 pm - Rosenstrasse, 136 min.
10:00 pm - School Ties, 107 min.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

11:00 am - Hiding and Seeking, 87 min.
1:00 pm - In Satmar Custody, 70 min./
My Brother's Wedding, 36 min.
3:15 pm - Montreal Jewish Memories, 52 min./
Inspiring Figure, 26 min.
5:30 pm - Checkpoint, 80 min.
7:45 pm - Divan, 77 min.
9:45 pm - Round Trip, 95 min.

THURSDAY, MAY 6

11:00 am - The Sunshine Boys, 111 min.
1:15 pm - Stalin's Disciples, 90 min.
3:15 pm - It Is No Dream, 53 min.
5:00 pm - Looking for Victoria, 58 min.
7:00 pm - My Favorite Year, 92 min.
9:45 pm - The Hebrew Hammer, 85 min.

FRIDAY, MAY 7

11:00 am - Professor Mamlock, 99 min.
1:15 pm - My Stills: 1952-2002, 63 min.
2:45 pm - Mermaids, 111 min.
5:15 pm - Conversation with Richard Benjamin FREE

SATURDAY, MAY 8

9:30 pm - Wondrous Oblivion, 97 min./
High Five, 3 min.
11:45 pm - Purim Safari, 47 min./
Sanhedrin, 30 min./ Jailbirds, 15 min.

SUNDAY, MAY 9

11:00 am - A Vilna Legend, 60 min./
A Cantor on Trial, 10 min.
1:00 pm - Thunder in Guyana, 51 min./
Backseat Bingo, 7 min.
3:15 pm - No. 17, 75 min.
6:00 pm - Almost Peaceful, 90 min./
The Barber, 10 min.
8:30 pm - Berga: Soldiers of Another War, 86 min.

MILES NADAL JCC**SUNDAY, MAY 2****12:00 pm** - Sleeping with the Enemy, 52 min.**2:00 pm** - Behind Enemy Lines, 65 min./
Strangers, 7 min. (Repeat)**4:15 pm** - 1000 Calories, 50 min./
Berlin Beshert, 29 min.**6:00 pm** - Insight, 77 min./
A Little Bit Different, 26 min.**8:30 pm** - Amsalem's Tears, 54 min./
The Postwoman, 50 min.**MONDAY, MAY 3****12:00 pm** - Isaac Bashevis Singer, 50 min./
Gimpel the Fool, 18 min.**2:00 pm** - My Father's Camera, 59 min./
My Grandparents Had a Hotel, 30 min.**4:00 pm** - Le Tango des Rashevski, (Repeat) 97 min.**6:15 pm** - Conversation with Jerry Faivish **FREE****8:15 pm** - Crown Heights, 90 min./
Increasing the Peace, 15 min. **FREE****TUESDAY, MAY 4****12:00 pm** - Black to the Promised Land, 98 min.**2:00 pm** - Mendel, 93 min.**4:00 pm** - Samuel Bak: Painter of Questions, 48 min./
The Sound Traveller, 19 min.**6:15 pm** - Conversation with Karen Shopsowitz **FREE****8:15 pm** - The Chosen, 108 min.**WEDNESDAY, MAY 5****12:00 pm** - Black to the Promised Land, 98 min.**2:00 pm** - A Life's Work, 61 min./
The Orthodox Way, 25 min.**4:00 pm** - Abjad (Repeat), 108 min.**6:15 pm** - Conversation with Harry Rasky **FREE****8:15 pm** - James' Journey to Jerusalem, 87 min.**THURSDAY, MAY 6****12:00 pm** - La Terza Luna, 81 min**2:00 pm** - Stateless, Arrogant and Lunatic 100 min.**4:00 pm** - Seekers of Happiness, 84 min./
The Bund: Work and Revolution, 11min.**6:15 pm** - Conversation with Benny Brunner **FREE****8:15 pm** - Perlasca, 114 min.**FRIDAY, MAY 7****12:00 pm** - From Dachau With Love, 77 min.**2:00 pm** - Gloomy Sunday, 110 min.**SATURDAY, MAY 8**

No programming

SUNDAY, MAY 9**10:00 am** - Up Against the Wall (Panel) **FREE****12:00 pm** - Dziga and his Brothers, 53 min./
Avant-Garde Jewish Wedding, 7 min.**2:00 pm** - Rose's Songs, 98 min.**4:15 pm** - Mutter, 95 min.*** Total running time (shorts included)****** See page for film description**



Photo by: Aviva Zukerman Schure

By Helen Zukerman, Executive Director

Here we grow again!

I am always astonished at the passage of time, but especially when I sit myself down to write this piece. You would think I'd get it right after eleven years.

I thought, "Here we go again," but as I look back to the last year and forward to the next one, "Here we **grow** again," seems more appropriate.

This past year we presented four special screenings at the Sheppard Grande (aka "Chai Tea & a Movie") that were exceptionally successful and well attended. Last November, we held a weekend mini-festival of hits from past Festivals at City Playhouse in Vaughan. As we go to press, final preparations are being made for our first TJFF event geared to reaching out to younger audiences. Thanks to Lori Hoffman, a member of our Board, for spearheading this project.

We have expanded to two venues for the Festival itself, which allows us to respond to your requests for repeats, revivals, eclectic titles, and more free programmes and student/senior programmes. We are happy to be at the Al Green Theatre at the Miles Nadal JCC and look forward to seeing you there. The 12th annual TJFF showcases 94 films/events from 19 countries. Quite a step up from 1993 when we opened with 20 films from 10 countries!

Looking ahead, we will be back at the Sheppard Grande and City Playhouse in October and we will be showing films at the Leah Posluns as well. Also, we have been talking to York University about screenings for students. The presentation of Jewish content films opens up endless possibilities for discussion and dialogue. Film offers a non-threatening opportunity to break down stereotypes and barriers — this can only be good, and has always been the mandate of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival. We are succeeding in attracting a multicultural audience — 13 percent of people who answered our questionnaire last year identified themselves as not being Jewish.

We are literally limited only by the money available to program. Film festivals never make money, nor should they. We aim, instead, to educate and illuminate. What happens in the theatre is magic. We make magic for you and with you.

It is essential for me to thank the Festival staff. You will never find a more committed group of people dedicated to making this event so special. Thank you also to the over 100 volunteers, without whom we could not operate. Special thanks is due this year to Allen Karp and Ellis Jacob at Cineplex Galaxy. They always come through for us. The Toronto Jewish Film Festival could have no better friends!

And to you, our audience, thank you for making us part of your life, and for those of you who are able, for responding to our annual campaign. All of us are asked daily to support a myriad of causes. We are grateful to be counted as one of yours. Remember, every donation is important and gives you a special connection to the Festival.

Next stop is Bar/Bat Mitzvah year 2005. We have some wonderful special events planned so stay connected to us at tjff.com. Hint: an affordable, accessible fundraiser and evening of fun and frivolity.



Photo by: Aviva Zukerman Schure

By Shlomo Schwartzberg, Director of Programming

The strength of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival has always been reflected in the wide range and rich diversity of films we show each year, depicting Jewish life around the world. These days, with the prevalence of racism and anti-Semitism, our non-stereotypical cinematic offerings become more important than ever.

This year's supersized Festival covers the gamut of subject matter and genre. We have a very strong line-up of documentary films on the Middle East. Our compelling Opening Night premiere, *Behind Enemy Lines*, details the friendship of an Israeli policeman and a Palestinian journalist (with both men in attendance), and asks if their relationship can shine as a beacon for the future. Two films powerfully deal with terrorism (*Impact of Terror*; No. 17), while two others (*The Wall*, *Une barrière contre la terreur*) offer up sharp, contrasting views of the controversial 'Wall' that Israel is presently erecting. Conversely, we have also responded to your requests to increase the amount of non-political Israeli fiction at the festival. Like our recent Special Presentation of *Broken Wings*, those dramas and shorts go beyond the interminable Israeli - Palestinian conflict, to present snapshots of Israeli life that are universal in the issues and problems that they portray.

We also welcome distinguished actor / director Richard Benjamin, who will be honoured with showings of three films, *The Sunshine Boys*, *My Favorite Year*, and *Mermaids*, which highlight his talents behind and in front of the camera.

Guests — filmmakers and presenters alike - remain an important component of our Festival. This year, we have added "A Conversation With..." series to the TJFF. Local directors (Harry Rasky, Karen Shopsowitz), and international filmmakers (Benny Brunner, Richard Benjamin), all of whom have films at the TJFF, will be interviewed on their life and art. We also bring back Jerry Faivish, who will present a slide show devoted to his fascinating collection of Jewish movie posters, each of which is a story in itself. Best of all, the above-mentioned programmes, as well as our showing of *Crown Heights*, (with director Jeremy Kagan in attendance), are free.

On Closing Night we will be announcing the winner of the @ Wallace Jewish Film Award, for the best script submitted by a Canadian filmmaker. Special thanks to the sponsors of the award, the jury, and all the entrants.

There's a lot more at the TJFF, of course. Remarkable true-life stories, such as our Closing Night powerhouse, *Berga: Soldiers of Another War*. Entertaining, provocative features from countries like Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Iran. Our 'bumpers' from the talented students at Ryerson's School of Image Arts, and David Stein's wonderful Festival trailer. And a sure to be talked about panel, *Up Against the Wall*, where filmmakers will discuss their view of and responsibility towards Israel. That's only the tip of the iceberg in this year's exciting edition of the TJFF. You're in for many treats!

Free Programmes

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival presents more free programmes than ever before. Keep checking **www.tjff.com** for up-to-date information. Tickets are required for free events and screenings, which are on a first-come, first-served basis.

SERIES: A CONVERSATION WITH...

Audiences have a chance to meet Canadian and international filmmakers / guest speakers up close and personal in this special TJFF series. In-depth conversation in an intimate setting — about the artistry, the craft, and the business of filmmaking.

MON. MAY 3

6:15 pm A Conversation with Jerry Faivish
Miles Nadal JCC

Toronto collector/expert Jerry Faivish presents a slide presentation on the art and history of the Jewish movie poster. Mr. Faivish has spoken internationally on the topic, and his invaluable poster collection has been displayed in museums throughout the world. In 2002 they were an integral part of an exhibition mounted by the Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archives at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

TUES. MAY 4

6:15 pm A Conversation with Karen Shopsowitz
Miles Nadal JCC

Films exploring her family history and other social issues distinguish Toronto filmmaker Karen Shopsowitz's large body of work. Her credits include *My Grandparents Had a Hotel* (1984); *A Lot to Share* (1989); *My Father's Camera* (2000); and *Angel Light* (2002).

WED. MAY 5

6:15 pm A Conversation with Harry Rasky
Miles Nadal JCC

Veteran Toronto director Harry Rasky specialises in complex documentary films exploring art and artists. His credits include *Homage to Chagall - The Colours of Love* (1975); *Arthur Miller on Home Ground* (1979); *Karsh - The Searching Eye* (1986); and *Nobody Swings on Sunday* (2003).

THURS. MAY 6

6:15 pm A Conversation with Benny Brunner
Miles Nadal JCC

An Israeli filmmaker, based in Amsterdam, Benny Brunner provocatively examines the many aspects of Israeli - Palestinian life. His credits include *Al-Nakba* (1995); *The Seventh Million* (1997); *It is No Dream* (2002); and *The Wall* (2003).

FRI. MAY 7

5:15 pm A Conversation with Richard Benjamin
Bloor Cinema

Toronto Star columnist Martin Knelman interviews American actor / director Richard Benjamin. Benjamin has crafted an impressive body of work, often Jewish-themed, both in Hollywood and on television. Mr. Benjamin's appearance is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY. See page 9.

SUN. MAY 9

10 am UP AGAINST THE WALL (Panel Discussion)
Miles Nadal JCC

Standoff in the Middle East. The films about the conflict that screen at this year's TJFF focus on boundaries and barriers: checkpoints, terrorism, suspicion, and the infamous Wall itself — emblematic of the great divide that separates Israelis and Palestinians. Can filmmakers have an impact and influence the peace process? Is there a double standard at play, for filmmakers within Israel and those in the Diaspora? An international panel, including filmmakers Dov Gil-Har and Benny Brunner, engage in a lively, provocative discussion on these and other issues. Moderated by columnist Shira Herzog.

The "Conversations with..." series at the Miles Nadal JCC and the Panel are presented by **NOW Magazine**.

FREE SCREENING

MON. MAY 3

8:15 pm CROWN HEIGHTS
Miles Nadal JCC

Starring Howie Mandel and Mario Van Peebles.

Director Jeremy Kagan will be in attendance. See page 17 for programme description. Screening made possible by Showtime Networks Inc.

**RICHARD BENJAMIN: FUNNY MAN / FILMMAKER**

Actor / Director Richard Benjamin has reinvented himself several times in a long career that has seen him find new fans without losing any of the older ones in the process. He first came to public notice in the 1960s as the star (with wife Paula Prentiss) of the short – lived but critically acclaimed TV series *He & She*. Then he hit the big screen, starring in two controversial Philip Roth adaptations, *Portnoy's Complaint* and *Goodbye, Columbus* as well as such popular movies as *Catch 22* and *The Sunshine Boys*.

If that wasn't enough, he then switched gears and became a director, helming a diverse group of films which starred a veritable Hollywood Who's Who, including Sean Penn (*Racing with the Moon*), Tom Hanks (*The Money Pit*), Cher (*Mermaids*), Peter O'Toole (*My Favorite Year*) and Sidney Poitier (*Little Nikita*). He also worked in television, with such prestigious credits as *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (TJFF 2001), *The Pentagon Wars* and, most recently, a remake of *The Goodbye Girl*, starring Jeff Daniels and Patricia Heaton. He still acts, too, appearing in Woody Allen's *Deconstructing Harry* and his own *Marci X*.

Eternally boyish, smart and funny, and incredibly diverse in his range of interests and mastery of genres, Richard Benjamin remains firmly in the public eye, even as he mostly works behind the camera. People still know who he is and, more significantly, want to see what's he up to next. With Richard Benjamin as a special guest of the TJFF, here's your chance to find out what he's all about – Shlomo Schwartzberg.

The TJFF is pleased to show three of Mr. Benjamin's films: *The Sunshine Boys*, *My Favorite Year* and *Mermaids*. Mr. Benjamin will also be interviewed by Toronto Star columnist Martin Knelman, on Fri. May 7 at 5:15 pm. Look for Richard Benjamin's filmography in the Programme Book centrefold.

Mr. Benjamin's appearance is made possible by the generous support of
SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY

Opening Night Film

BEHIND ENEMY LINES

WORLD PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2003, video, 65 min.

Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles

Director: Dov Gil – Har



Can friendship between Israelis and Palestinians surmount the barriers of mistrust afflicting both sides in the current Middle East conflict? Filmmaker Dov Gil – Har brings together two of the subjects of his earlier film *Sleeping with the Enemy: An Israeli – Palestinian Journey to Japan* (TJFF 2001) to see if it can do just that. Palestinian journalist Adnan Joulani and Israeli policeman Benny Herness meet face to face for the first time since the Intifada broke out. Each of them is asked to take the other to specific places in “his” world, in a valiant effort to try to get the “enemy” to understand his point of view. Can their warm personal relationship actually make a difference? By daring to ask that pertinent question, the masterful *Behind Enemy Lines* stands out from the pack.

Dov Gil – Har, Adnan Joulani and Benny Herness will all be in attendance.

with

STRANGERS

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL / USA, 2003, 35mm, 7 min.

Directors: Erez Tadmor, Guy Nattiv

Cast: Guy Loel, Sami Samir

A Jew and a Muslim on the Paris subway. It’s not what you expect!

Audience Award Winner-Short Subject, Sundance Film Festival, 2004

Screening: Saturday, May 1, 9:30 pm (Varsity)

Repeat Screening: Sunday May 2, 2:00 pm. (JCC)

Opening Night generously sponsored by



Closing Night Film

BERGA: SOLDIERS OF ANOTHER WAR

USA, 2003, 35mm, 86 min.

Director: Charles Guggenheim



Approximately 6000 American GIs were among the Allied soldiers captured by the Nazis during wartime. While the conditions of the POWs were generally harsh, the Nazis reserved their worst venom for the American Jewish soldiers under their control. Berga: Soldiers of Another War is the eye – opening, disturbing tale of 315 American soldiers, known to be Jewish or suspected of being Jews, sent by the Nazis, in flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention,

to be used as slave labour. Their stories, which finally bring this unexplored part of history to our attention, will haunt you. This superb documentary, the last from the late Charles Guggenheim (RFK Remembered; The Klan: A Legacy of Hate in America) is one you won't soon forget.

Best of Festival, Columbus International Film and Video Festival, 2003

IDA / Pare Lorentz Award, 2003

CINE Golden Eagle Award, 2003

William Shapiro, an imprisoned American soldier, will be in attendance.

Screening: Sunday, May 9, 8:30 pm (Bloor)

Closing Night generously sponsored by



1000 CALORIES

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2002, video, 50 min.

Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Dalia Mevorah

Writer: Nava Semel

Cast: Esthie Zakheim, Dalit Kahan, Smadar Klachinski



When two friends accompany their unhappy, overweight friend to a fat farm, secrets are revealed, trusts are broken, and love is discovered. A bittersweet drama from Israel, starring the luminous Dalit Kahan (Song of the Siren, TJFF 1996). From the Reflections of Women TV series.

with

BERLIN BESHERT

GERMANY, 2002, video, 29 min.

German with English subtitles

Writer / Director: November Wanderin

Cast: Tamara Stern, Anat Fritz, Barbara Spitz

Jewish stories from Berlin. Two sisters: Dahlia, who doesn't particularly care if her boyfriend is Jewish, much less religious, and Leah, who only wants a kosher Jewish girlfriend. When their mother hires a Jewish matchmaker to set them up with dates, the stage is set for some very funny scenarios. A biting, offbeat comedy about looking for – and sometimes finding – love in all the wrong places.

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 4:15 pm. (JCC)

ABJAD (THE FIRST LETTER)

FRANCE / IRAN, 2003, 35mm, 108 min.

Farsi with English subtitles

Writer / Director: Abolfazl Jalili

Cast: Mehdi Morady, Mina Molania, Sharare Roohy



On the eve of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, Emkan, a 16-year-old Muslim boy with an artistic bent and a rebellious nature, falls in love with Maassoum, a teenage Jewish girl. As he grows closer to her, and the country's fundamentalists begin to make their impact felt, matters between the couple intensify. Beautifully shot and photographed, Abjad very subtly deals with its Jewish content and characters. The result is a ravishing film that's a tender love story and an incisive political commentary.

Screening: Monday, May 3, 9:45 pm. (Bloor)

Repeat Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 4:00 pm. (JCC)

ALMOST PEACEFUL (UN MONDE PRESQUE PAISIBLE)**CANADIAN PREMIERE****FRANCE, 2002, 35mm, 90 min.****French with English subtitles****Director: Michel Deville****Writers: Michel Deville, Rosalinde Deville****Cast: Simon Abkarian, Zabou Breitman, Denis Podalydes**

Set immediately following World War II, when Jewish survivors of the Holocaust struggled to pick up the pieces of their lives, *Almost Peaceful* is a sweet, leisurely snapshot of a particular time and place. As Albert re-establishes his Paris tailor shop, his dissatisfied wife Lea finds herself attracted to Charles, who is still vainly hoping that his family survived the camps. Other employees and customers of the shop indulge in their own affairs of the heart. In the humane spirit of French directors such as François Truffaut (*The Last Metro*) and Louis Malle (*Au revoir les enfants*), *Almost Peaceful* is a gentle and evocative film.

with

THE BARBER**CANADIAN PREMIERE****FRANCE, 2003, 16mm, 10 min.****French with English subtitles****Director: Jon J. Carnoy**

Will a small-town barber strike a blow for the Resistance by cutting the throat of the German officer he is shaving?

Screening: Sunday, May 9, 6:00 pm (Bloor)

Programme generously sponsored by STEPHEN AND COOKIE SANDLER

AMSALEM'S TEARS**CANADIAN PREMIERE****ISRAEL, 2003, video, 54 min.****Hebrew with English subtitles****Director: Oren Stern****Writer: Reshef Levi, Regel Levi****Cast: Moshe Ivgi, Reuven Dayan, Karen Koved**

When he reluctantly commits his father to an old age home, local gangster Eli (Moshe Ivgi) is forced to come to terms with his dad's mortality and confronts his own inner emotional life in the process. As an Israeli version of Tony Soprano, TJFF favourite, Moshe Ivgi, (*Cup Final*, TJFF 2000) shines in this funny, offbeat and surprisingly tender drama.

with

THE POSTWOMAN

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2002, video, 50 min.

Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Dina Zvi Riklis

Writer: Aya Shva

**Cast: Orly Silberschatz Banai, Moshe Ivgi,
Jermaine Unikowski**



A lonely mail carrier falls for a man (Moshe Ivgi) who has moved into the neighbourhood on her route. Intercepting a letter for him from a potential blind date, she decides to begin corresponding with him, under an alias. But how will she reveal herself to him and what will he do when he finds out who she is? A tender love story, from the Reflections of Women TV series.

Best Drama Award, Jerusalem International Film Festival,
2002 Best Production Award, for anthology - Reflections of
Women, Jerusalem International Film Festival, 2002

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 8:30 pm. (JCC)

BLACK TO THE PROMISED LAND

ISRAEL / USA, 1990, video, 98 min.

Director: Madeleine Ali



An irresistible film that explores the meeting and co-existence of two disparate worlds. In Israel, eleven African-American high school students from Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, confront the culture of a people, a language, and a way of life different from anything they have ever known. Stereotypical expectations abound on both sides. Our joy is in watching these myths shatter. A TJFF revival.

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 12:00 pm. (JCC)

Repeat Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 12:00 pm. (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

TORONTO STAR

Official Newspaper Sponsor

BLOOD FROM A STONE**USA, 2003, video, 83 min.****Director: Phil Tuckett**

When Sam Nyer, an American-Jewish veteran of World War II, encounters Israeli terrorism expert Yaron Svoray, the stage is set for a real life adventure that will take up the next fifteen years of Svoray's life. Leading the search for 40 uncut diamonds, hidden by Nyer, is a quest that changes Svoray, a real-life Indiana Jones, profoundly. Exciting, gripping and, finally, very moving, Blood from a Stone will keep you riveted in your seat.

Note: This is the uncut version of the film.

Rick Kojfman, Yaron Svoray's financial associate, who was involved in the quest for the diamonds, will be in attendance.

Screening: Monday, May 3, 3:15 pm. (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

«TORONTO STAR»

Official Newspaper Sponsor

CHECKPOINT**ISRAEL, 2003, video, 80 min.****Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles****Director: Yoav Shamir**

Human dramas are unveiled at the many checkpoints dotting the borders between and within Israel and the Palestinian territories, as Palestinians try to cross to get to their homes and jobs. Some of the soldiers are civil, others are not. Some Palestinians are reasonable, while others are belligerent.

Without narration or prompting the participants, Checkpoint, disturbingly, reveals an uncomfortable reality that plays its own part in the current Palestinian-Israeli political impasse.

VPRO Joris Ivens Competition Award, International Documentary Film Festival, Amsterdam, 2003.

Director Yoav Shamir will be in attendance.

Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 5:30 pm. (Bloor)

THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM & SOPHIE**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE****ISRAEL / NETHERLANDS, 2002, video, 95 min.****Hebrew, German with English subtitles****Director: Benny Brunner**

The three children of Abraham Braun and Sophie Schopf, including writer and former Knesset member Mordechai Bar-On, are just part of the family tree in Benny Brunner's complex and subtle examination of the ties that bind. In this family, the roots begin with Abraham and Sophie, a Jewish man and a Catholic woman who came to Palestine in 1924. They also extend backwards to her German relatives in Breslau (now Wroclaw) and forward to an Arab son-in-law who gently spars with Mordechai, his staunchly Zionist father-in-law. Gradually, and leavened by Harry de Wit's haunting, melancholy score, a fascinating picture of modern Israel and Jewish life today emerges. From Benny Brunner, whose films, The Wall and It Is No Dream, are also showing at TJFF 2004.

Director Benny Brunner will be in attendance.

Screening: Monday, May 3, 7:15 pm. (Bloor)

Programme generously sponsored by

THE GERALD SCHWARTZ and HEATHER
REISMAN FOUNDATION

THE CHOSEN

USA, 1981, 35 mm., 108 min.

Director: Jeremy Kagan

Writer: Edwin Gordon

**Cast: Robby Benson, Barry Miller, Rod Steiger,
Maximillian Schell**



A rich adaptation of Chaim Potok's acclaimed novel, set in Brooklyn circa 1941, and revolving around the uneasy friendship between Danny Saunders (Robby Benson), the son of an influential Hasidic spiritual leader, and Reuven Malter (Barry Miller), whose father is a noted professor and Zionist activist. A rare cinematic look at the secular – religious conflicts in the Jewish community that continue to this day.

Grand Prix, Montreal World Film Festival, 1981

Director Jeremy Kagan will be in attendance.

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 8:15 pm (JCC)

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

WORLD PREMIERE

CANADA, 2004, video, 65 min.

Director: Igal Hecht



A controversial documentary revolving around a so-called "Messianic" Jewish congregation in Toronto, which believes Jesus is the Messiah, and the Jews for Judaism organization, which seeks to prevent Jews from being converted to Christianity. Young 'believers' who have come to Christ speak out about why they believe in 'Yeshua'. Other Jews explain why, according to scripture, Jesus could not possibly be the Messiah. The Chosen People deftly portrays issues that are of concern to many in the Jewish community today. From the director of Y.I.D.: Yehudeem in the Diaspora (TJFF 2003).

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

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 5:30 pm. (Bloor)

CROWN HEIGHTS**CANADIAN PREMIERE****USA, 2002, video, 90 min.****Director: Jeremy Kagan****Writer: Toni Ann Johnson****Cast: Howie Mandel, Mario Van Peebles,
Jeremy Blackman**

Toronto actor Howie Mandel stars as a Hasidic Rabbi trying to broker peace between his people and the African-American community in Crown Heights, New York, after a Hasidic man accidentally runs down and kills a young black boy. Based on the 1991 incident, Crown Heights emphasizes reconciliation and hope as the Rabbi and a black youth leader, played by Mario Van Peebles, work together to bridge their differences. An inspiring film from director Jeremy Kagan (The Chosen, TJFF 2004).

Followed by

INCREASING THE PEACE**CANADIAN PREMIERE****USA, 2002, video, 15 min.****Director: Jeremy Kagan**

The Jews and African-Americans depicted in Crown Heights are profiled ten years after the fact.

Note: This is a free screening, generously made possible by Showtime Networks Inc.

Director Jeremy Kagan will be in attendance.

Screening: Monday, May 3, 8:15 pm. (JCC)

DIVAN**CANADIAN PREMIERE****USA / HUNGARY / UKRAINE, 2003, 35mm, 77 min.****English, Yiddish, Hungarian with English subtitles****Director: Pearl Gluck**

A search for a sofa owned by Pearl Gluck's great-great grandfather in Hungary, unearths more than she bargained for in this bittersweet documentary. The near legendary divan, reputedly slept on by scores of famous Hasidic rebbes, brings Gluck back into the fold of her Orthodox family and in close contact with her father, from whom she's become estranged. Anchored by touching testimonies from other men and women, who have also strayed from their Orthodox roots, Divan tackles the big questions of faith, morality and the meaning of family, with sharp wit.

Director Pearl Gluck will be in attendance.

Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 7:45 pm. (Bloor)

Spotlight on Women Filmmakers generously sponsored by

**DZIGA AND HIS BROTHERS****CANADIAN PREMIERE****RUSSIA, 2002, video, 52 min.****Russian with English subtitles****Director: Yevgeni Tsymlal**

David Kaufman, known as Dziga Vertov, directed the landmark 1929 Russian documentary film Man with

a Movie Camera. Moisey (Mikhail) Kaufman starred in Dziga's film and was a renowned Soviet cameraman too. Boris Kaufman collaborated with the legendary French filmmaker Jean Vigo (*L'Atalante*) and then went to Hollywood, winning fame and fortune as a cinematographer (*On the Waterfront*, *The Pawnbroker*). The tumultuous lives of the three Kaufman brothers exemplified the history of the cinema and of the major political events that made up the twentieth century. Revolutionary artists all, the Russian-Jewish brothers are brought to vivid life, through their correspondence, remembrances from their loved ones and, most of all, their timeless, pioneering cinematic works. Using rare footage from Russian State film archives and private collections, *Dziga and His Brothers* pays homage to three genuine masters whose influences are with us still.

Gerald Pratley, adjunct professor, film studies at Ryerson, film historian and author will speak on the film.

with

AVANT-GARDE JEWISH WEDDING

WORLD PREMIERE

CANADA, 2004, video, 7 min.

Director: Melissa Shiff



When they married, filmmaker Melissa Shiff and her new husband Louis Kaplan, decided to incorporate experimental film and video techniques to pay homage to their ancestors and create new Jewish rituals, traditions and hopes for the future. Something old, something borrowed, something new!

Filmmaker Melissa Shiff will be in attendance.

Screening: Sunday, May 9, 12:00 pm. (JCC)

EMMA GOLDMAN: AN EXCEEDINGLY DANGEROUS WOMAN

USA 2003, video, 87 min.

Director: Mel Bucklin



The remarkable Emma Goldman, anarchist, revolutionary and passionate fighter for women's rights, is profiled in Mel Bucklin's incisive and comprehensive documentary. 'Red Emma' as she was labeled by the tabloids, made her mark in early 20th Century America, even as she accumulated enemies. *Emma Goldman: An Exceedingly Dangerous Woman*, however, goes beyond her politics to get at the passionate, driven human being who influenced and impressed so many. It's a stirring portrait of an extraordinary person.

Director Mel Bucklin will be in attendance.

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 3:30 pm. (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

TORONTO STAR

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FORGET BAGHDAD

TORONTO PREMIERE

GERMANY / SWITZERLAND, 2002, 35mm, 114 min.

Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles

Writer / Director: Samir



After the proclamation of the State of Israel in 1948, more than half a million Jews, including about 100,000 Iraqis, were forced to leave the Arab lands where they had lived for thousands of years. Samir, a Swiss-raised Shiite Muslim filmmaker, felt an affinity with those 'Oriental' Jews, who were not exactly welcomed with open arms by the dominant Ashkenazi majority in Israel. They, like Samir, often felt that their adopted country made them strangers in a strange land. Four Iraqi-born Israelis, including Sami Michael, author of *Trumpet in the Wadi* (TJFF 2003), speak about growing up in Iraq, their reactions to and feelings about living in Israel, and their radical political beliefs, which are often at odds with those around them. *Forget Baghdad* is a revealing and timely testimony to a more 'innocent' time, when Jews and Muslims were neighbours rather than enemies.

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 1:00 pm. (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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FROM DACHAU WITH LOVE

CANADIAN PREMIERE

GERMANY, 2003, video, 77 min.

English, German, Polish with English subtitles

Director: Bernd Fischer



The picturesque German town of Dachau has many attractions but it's best known for one thing, the concentration camp which bore its name. The townspeople have mixed feelings about that fact, with many wanting to downplay that reality and market the town to tourists. Others are determined to keep the truth alive. Gradually, a multi-layered portrait of Dachau, drawn by a filmmaker who grew up there, emerges. It's not a pretty picture.

Screening: Friday, May 7, 12:00 pm. (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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GLOOMY SUNDAY

GERMANY, 1999, 35mm, 110 min.

German with English subtitles

Director: Rolf Schübel

Writers: Rolf Schübel, Ruth Toma

Cast: Ben Becker, Stefano Dionisi, Joachim Krol,
Erika Marozsán



A love quadrangle is at the centre of this glossy melodrama set in Hungary before, during and after the war. Laszlo, the Jewish owner of a popular Budapest cafe, and Andras, the gentile pianist he hires to play in his restaurant, both love the beautiful waitress, Ilona. So does Hans, a seemingly guileless young man who soon joins the Nazi party. His actions, and Andras' dangerous musical composition, *Gloomy Sunday*, play a part in the fate of the foursome. Gently mixing drama and humour, and offering up a neat twist ending, *Gloomy Sunday* is a highly original, potent brew. A TJFF revival.

Screening: Friday, May 7, 2:00 pm. (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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THE HEBREW HAMMER

USA, 2002, 35mm, 85 min.

Writer / Director: Jonathan Kesselman

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



Back by popular demand. Jew Power! The Hebrew Hammer, aka Mordechai 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*. Sacrilegious, fearless and hysterically funny!

Warning: Language and sexual situations

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 9:45 pm. (Bloor)

HIDING AND SEEKING: FAITH AND TOLERANCE AFTER THE HOLOCAUST

USA, 2003, video, 97 min.

English, Yiddish, Polish with English subtitles

Directors: Menachem Daum, Oren Rudavsky



A deeply personal and exceptionally moving story. While proud of his sons, who are Orthodox Yeshiva students in Israel, filmmaker Menachem Daum (A Life Apart: Hasidism in America) is concerned that they are leading too insular a life, disconnected from the non-Jewish world. He takes them on a journey to Poland, in search of the Catholic couple who rescued their grandfather. What happened on that trip had a profound effect on them. A masterful documentary.

Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 11:00 am. (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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IMPACT OF TERROR

WORLD PREMIERE

CANADA, 2004, video, 52 min.

Director: Tim Wolochatiuk



In August 2001, a bomb destroyed a Sbarro pizza restaurant in downtown Jerusalem. Fifteen people died in the explosion; another 130 were injured, many seriously. Evocatively, Impact of Terror revisits that tragic event, interviewing the survivors and the families of the dead. Playing out almost as a thriller, slowly revealing the fate of those in the restaurant at the time, the deeply moving Impact of Terror brings home the danger – and the long-term repercussions – of the terrorism Israelis face virtually every day.

Director Tim Wolochatiuk, Producer Ric Bienstock, Executive Producer Simcha Jacobovici and Orley Pinchuk, a volunteer who was at the Sbarro site after the bombing, will be in attendance.

Screening: Monday, May 3, 5:30 pm. (Bloor)

IN SATMAR CUSTODY

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2003, video, 70 min.

English, Hebrew, Yiddish with English subtitles

Director: Nitzan Gilady



Comprising over 100,000 members, the fiercely anti-Zionist Satmars are the largest Hasidic sect in the world. As part of their outreach, they aim to bring all the Yemenite Jews to America, rather than Israel. The Jaradis were one of the many Yemenite families brought to Monroe, New York by the Satmars. The culture clash between the Jaradis's traditional practices and those of the Satmars were difficult enough, but when their 2 1/2 year-old daughter died under suspicious circumstances, they entered a new nightmare. In *Satmar Custody* is a disturbing look at the underbelly of fundamentalist religious life in America.

Winner, Le Prix Planète, Marseille Documentary Film Festival, 2003

with

MY BROTHER'S WEDDING

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA, video, 36 min.

Director: Daniel Akiba



Growing up, Dan Akiba had a uniquely close relationship with his brother Jonah, much of it documented on film by their photographer father. Now Jonah has become ultra-Orthodox and is getting married in a Hasidic ceremony in Israel. The invitation to Jonah's wedding brings Dan's conflicted feelings about his brother's new lifestyle to the surface in this revealing portrait.

Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 1:00 pm. (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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INSIGHT**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE****ISRAEL, 2003, video, 77 min.****Hebrew with English subtitles****Writer / Director: Eyal Halfon****Cast: Alon Aboutboul, Dan Shapira, Moshe Folkenfich**

After the chaos of the just ended Yom Kippur War, a religious Israeli soldier tries to find his childhood friend, who is feared dead in a tank battle. Eyal Halfon, whose film *The Italians are Coming* opened TJFF 1997, has created a powerful, deeply moving drama about war, camaraderie and responsibility. Based on Haim Sabato's acclaimed novel, *Adjusting Sights*, it's also made unique inroads in Israel's religious community.

Best TV Drama, Jerusalem International Film Festival, 2003

with

A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT**WORLD PREMIERE****ISRAEL, 2003, video, 26 min.****Hebrew with English subtitles****Writer / Director: Rachell Scheinfeld-Gadot****Cast: Elian Duval, Oren Zeltzer**

Independent, prickly Chava rejects Moshe, the date her Orthodox parents have arranged for her, simply because of his physical disabilities. Could it be, however, that she has a lot more in common with him than she can admit? A tender love story from the Ma'ale School of Television and Film.

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 6 pm (JCC)

ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER
"...ABOUT A HIDDEN GOD..."**FRANCE, 1998, video, 50 min.****Director: Isy Morgensztern**

An affectionate tribute to the late, great Yiddish writer. He speaks about his fame, his Nobel Prize for Literature, why he writes in Yiddish, and his philosophy of love, sex, women and Judaism. With arresting historical footage of the young Singer and narrated excerpts from his books and stories. A TJFF revival.

with

GIMPEL THE FOOL**USA, 1994, video, 18 min.****English and Yiddish****Director: Ezra Schwartz**

A lovely, animated, bilingual rendition of one of Isaac Bashevis Singer's best known fables. A sardonic and touching film about the foolish Gimpel, the scheming woman he marries and his fate. A TJFF revival.

In honour of the Centenary of Isaac Bashevis Singer's birth.

Screening: Monday, May 3, 12:00 pm. (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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IT IS NO DREAM

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2003, video, 53 min.

Hebrew with English subtitles

Directors: Benny Brunner, Joseph Rochlit



Figures from Israel's left — writers, journalists, and human rights workers — voice their concerns and criticisms about the occupation, the Intifada, and Israeli-Palestinian relations. They speak out with remarkable candour and passion about the mistakes they feel their country is making. Theirs is not an Israeli view we're used to hearing but it's part of the thriving, lively democratic debate currently going on in Israel. *It is No Dream* is an important, relevant film that must be seen.

Directors Benny Brunner and Joseph Rochlitz will be in attendance.

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 3:15 pm (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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JAMES' JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

ISRAEL, 2003, video, 87 min.

English, Hebrew, Zulu with English subtitles

Director: Ra'anan Alexandrowicz

Writers: Ra'anan Alexandrowicz, Sami Duenias

Cast: Siyabonga Melongisi Shibe, Arie Elias, Salim Daw



When James (Siyabonga Melongisi Shibe), a religious African Christian, sets out for the Holy Land he's envisioned from the Bible, he's unprepared for his treatment in modern Israel. He's immediately jailed by an immigration officer, who thinks he's trying to sneak into the country illegally, then bailed out by businessman Shimi (Salim Daw), who promptly exploits him for cheap labour. It's only when James learns how the capitalist game is played that he begins to find his place in Israeli consumer society. The first feature by documentary filmmaker Ra'anan Alexandrowicz (*The Inner Tour*, TJFF 2002), *James' Journey to Jerusalem* brims with wit, clever dialogue and memorable characters, as it casts a critical but loving net over a country whose socialist dream has gone a little bit wrong.

Best Actor in an Israeli Feature Film, Siyabonga Melongisi Shibe, Jerusalem International Film Festival, 2003
Honorable Mention, Feature, Jerusalem International Film Festival, 2003

Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 8:15 pm. (JCC)

A LIFE'S WORK**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE****ISRAEL, 2003, video, 61 min.****Hebrew with English subtitles****Writer / Director: Gadi Nemet****Cast: Shmulik Kalderon, Irit Gidron, Yonatan Cherchi**

Successful businessman Jacob returns to the kibbutz he left many years ago, in order to acquire its fading cosmetics factory. His return pits him against his ex-girlfriend Dorit, as well as her husband Hilik, who vows to fight the factory takeover at all costs. Filmed partially on location at Kibbutz Gal – On, *A Life's Work* is a quiet elegy to a fast disappearing way of life.

with

THE ORTHODOX WAY**WORLD PREMIERE****ISRAEL, 2002 / 2003, video, 25 min.****Hebrew with English subtitles****Director: Ilan Eshkoli****Cast: Ronen Yifrac, Shelly Feldman**

When Eli accidentally picks up Michal, thinking she's his blind date, the contrary duo are thrown together in an amusing adventure, involving mistaken identity, three thugs, and a religious argument or two. A screwball comedy from the Ma'ale School of Television and Film.

Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 2:00 pm. (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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**LOOKING FOR VICTORIA:
AN ARGENTINE STORY****NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE****USA, 2004, video, 58 min.****English, Spanish with English subtitles****Director: Ton Vriens**

At the age of eighteen months, Adriana Lewi lost her parents. Her Jewish father and Catholic mother were among the 'disappeared', the estimated 30,000 Argentines murdered by the dictatorship that ruled the country from 1976 – 83. Now a grown woman, with a child of her own, she sets out to find out more about what happened to her parents. It's a quest that takes up three years of her life. *Looking for Victoria* is also an unforgettable portrait of a courageous young woman who dares to unearth a truth that most want buried. From director Ton Vriens (*To Live with Terror*, TJFF 2003).

Director Ton Vriens and Adriana Lewi will be in attendance.

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 5:00 pm. (Bloor)

Programme generously sponsored by

Cranston, Gaskin, O'Reilly & Vernon
Investment Counsel

THE MAIN SUSPECT

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2003, video, 61 min.

Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles

Director: Yaky Yosha



The death of twelve Israeli-Arabs, during a protest demonstration in Israel in October 2000, galvanized the nation. It was the first time that Israeli-Arab citizens had joined Palestinians in voicing opposition to the Occupation, and their deaths brought up questions of their place in Israeli society. For veteran filmmaker Yaky Yosha, the chief villain of the piece was obvious; Alik Cohen, the charismatic, enigmatic Galilee police chief. Yosha, however, soon discovered that the truth behind the story was a lot murkier and less simple than first appeared. Culminating in a historic meeting between Cohen and a group of Israeli-Arabs, *The Main Suspect* is a challenging look at two solitudes.

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 5:45 pm. (Bloor)

MAME-LOSHN, KINDER-LOSHN

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2002, video, 54 min.

Hebrew, Yiddish with English subtitles

Directors: Tommy Schwarcz, Avi Lehrer

Yiddish in the Holy Land? Meet the writers, poets, editors and Yiddish lovers who are trying to revive the language in Israel. Traditionally hostile or indifferent to Yiddish, Israelis have been slow to embrace the tongue spoken by so many Jews for centuries. Now things are changing. The engaging *Mame-Loshn, Kinder-Loshn* offers hope that at least part of Israel's future will be written in Yiddish.

Producer Hirsh Perloff will be in attendance.

with

DORA

CANADA, 1992, video, 18 min.

Director: Peggy Shkuda

A heartfelt profile of the indefatigable Dora Wasserman, founder of Montreal's acclaimed Yiddish theatre. From the Adrienne Clarkson Presents TV series. This screening was made possible through the support of the CBC.

Dedicated to the memory of two pioneering Yiddishists, Dora Wasserman, founder and longtime director of Montreal's acclaimed Yiddish Theatre, and Sara Rosenfeld, activist and co-founder of KlezKanada.

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 11:00 am. (Bloor)

THE MARCH OF THE LIVING

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

POLAND, 2003, video, 49 min.

Polish, German, Hebrew with English subtitles

Directors: Grzegorz Linkowski, Grzegorz R. Wroblewski



What would you do if you found out your 'loving but strict' father was, in fact, a Nazi War Criminal, responsible for the death of millions of Jews? That is the reality which has dogged young Martin Bormann Jr., whose father, Martin Bormann, was one of Hitler's most trusted advisors and one of the architects of The Final Solution. Trying to make peace with his past and his tortured memories, Bormann attends the annual March of the Living, which commemorates the Holocaust and those who died in the camps. But is that enough?

with

THE LAST WITNESS

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

POLAND, 2002, video, 48 min.

Polish with English subtitles

Director: Michal Nekanda-Trepka



He escaped from the Treblinka concentration camp, along with 400 other Jews who successfully fought back against their Nazi captors. (Only 67 of them survived the war.) Now Samuel Willenberg has gone back to Poland to try to understand his life and fathom the motives, feelings and prejudices of the Poles who both helped and hindered him. A subtle evocation of Polish-Jewish relations, and of one man's determination to make something meaningful out of his survival.

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 10:45 am. (Blur)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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MENDEL

NORWAY, 1997, 35 mm, 93 min.

Norwegian with English subtitles

Writer / Director: Alexander Røsler

Cast: Thomas Jüngling Sørensen, Teresa Harder, Hans Kremer

Growing up Jewish in Norway in the 1950s is hard enough for young Mendel (Sørensen), who has to cope with being different in an overwhelmingly Protestant country. It's made even more difficult by the fact that his family refuses to discuss the Holocaust or the reasons why they were forced to leave their native Germany for a comparatively harsh existence in Scandinavia. A serious and sometimes comic coming of age tale set in an environment not normally associated with Judaism. A TJFF revival.

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 2:00 pm. (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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MERMAIDS

USA, 1990, 35 mm. 111 min.

Director: Richard Benjamin

Writer: June Roberts

Cast: Cher, Bob Hoskins, Winona Ryder



Cher is a riot as a highly unconventional, peripatetic Jewish mother, leading her kids, including one daughter (Winona Ryder) obsessed with Catholic ritual, across the U.S. in the 60s. When the family ends up in a small Massachusetts town, she becomes involved with the local kosher butcher (Bob Hoskins) and considers settling down for a change. Poignant, witty and satirical, in equally effective measure, the underrated Mermaids showcases Richard Benjamin at his directorial best.

Director Richard Benjamin will be in attendance.

Screening: Friday, May 7, 2:45 pm. (Bloor)

Mr. Benjamin's appearance is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY

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MONTREAL JEWISH MEMORIES: STORIES OF THE WAR YEARS 1939 – 1945

TORONTO PREMIERE

CANADA, 2003, video, 52 min.

Director: Dov Okouneff



Various Montrealers, including Harry Gulkin (producer of *Lies My Father Told Me*), the late philanthropist Maxwell Cummings, and poet / writer Irving Layton, offer up reminiscences about their city during the turbulent war years. Anti-Semitism, relations with French-Canadians, Communism, the Holocaust and general day-to-day existence, are among the subjects brought to life. Terrific archival footage adds to this fascinating memoir.

Director Dov Okouneff will be in attendance.

with

INSPIRING FIGURE: THE LOUIS RUBENSTEIN STORY

TORONTO PREMIERE

CANADA, 2002, video, 26 min.

Director: Rosalind Raddatz



Louis Rubenstein was the first world figure skating champion and the first Canadian skater to compete abroad. He was also an all-round athlete, excelling at bicycling, curling and bowling. Later in life, he became a popular Montreal alderman and president of the YMHA. *Inspiring Figure: The Louis Rubenstein Story* is the remarkable profile of this revered Jewish athlete and respected public figure. With tributes from the International Olympic Committee's Dick Pound and champion skater Barbara Ann Scott, this film restores Louis Rubenstein, who died in 1931, to his rightful place in sports – and Canadian – history.

Executive Producer, Iris E. Wagner will be in attendance.

Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 3:15 pm. (Bloor)

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MUTTER (MOTHER)

CANADIAN PREMIERE

SWITZERLAND, 2002, 35mm, 95 min.

German, Hungarian with English subtitles

Director: Miklos Gimes



The indomitable figure at the center of *Mutter* fled her country in 1956, with her six-year-old son, after the Soviets crushed the Hungarian uprising and arrested – and later executed – her husband for his “counter-revolutionary activities”. She is forced to confront her tumultuous past when she returns home for the first time since those calamitous times. An emotional journey, a remarkable woman, an unforgettable film.

Best Documentary Film Award, Hungarian Film Critics Association, 2003

Screening: Sunday, May 9, 4:15 pm. (JCC)

MY FATHER'S CAMERA

CANADA, 2000, video, 59 min.

Director: Karen Shopsowitz



Karen Shopsowitz brings her father and his filmmaking hobby to life, in this poignant portrait of a man and his home movies. Tracing a direct line from her dad's passionate interest in film to her own present day career, she interviews archivists, filmmakers and historians on the value and role of amateur filming in recording history. All the while, Israel Shopsowitz's home movies weave their magic spell.

George Foster Peabody Award, 2001

Certificate of Merit, San Francisco International Film Festival, 2001

Bronze Plaque Award, Columbus International Film and Video Festival, 2001

with

MY GRANDPARENTS HAD A HOTEL

CANADA, 1989, video, 30 min.

Director: Karen Shopsowitz

The nostalgic story of The Monteith Inn, in the Muskokas, run by Karen Shopsowitz's grandparents, Harry and Jennie Shopsowitz, from 1935 – 49. Originally seen as a haven for Canadian (and American) Jews who were kept out of restricted clubs, the hotel soon became a colourful part of the province's Jewish history.

Silver Apple, National Educational Film and Video Festival, Oakland, 1991

Screening: Monday, May 3, 2:00 pm. (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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MY FAVORITE YEAR**USA, 1982, video, 92 min.****Director: Richard Benjamin****Writers: Dennis Palumbo, Norman Steinberg****Cast: Peter O'Toole, Mark Linn-Baker, Jessica Harper, Lainie Kazan, Lou Jacobi, Joseph Bologna**

A swashbuckling British actor (Peter O'Toole) creates havoc when he guest stars on a live TV variety show in the 50s. Richard Benjamin's lovingly etched tribute to Sid Caesar's classic *Your Show of Shows* has become a comedy classic in its own right, boasting one of O'Toole's finest performances and a well-oiled cast of comic support. It's as uproarious as comedies ever get.

Director Richard Benjamin will be in attendance.

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 7:00 pm. (Bloor)

Mr. Benjamin's appearance is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY

MY STILLS: 1952 – 2002**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE****ISRAEL, 2003, video, 63 min.****English, Hebrew with English subtitles****Director: David Perlov**

Famed Israeli documentary filmmaker David Perlov (In Jerusalem) switches gears with this entrancing examination of the art of still photography. It was his last film before his death last December at age 73. Perlov uses his portable video recorder to photograph the residents of his varied Tel Aviv neighbourhood. He also visits his favourite haunts in Paris and pays tribute to his idols and influences, among them, photographer David Seymour, who documented Israel's modern birth, and Emile Zola, the great French writer (*J'Accuse*). Narrated by Perlov, whose observations range from how television covered 9/11 to Israel's consistently changing immigrant palette, *My Stills: 1952 – 2002* makes us look at pictures in a whole new light.

Screening: Friday, May 7, 1:15 pm. (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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NO. 17**ISRAEL, 2003, video, 75 min.****Hebrew with English subtitles****Director: David Ofek**

When a suicide bomber blows himself up on an Israeli bus, 17 innocent people die. However, one of the bodies, burnt beyond recognition, goes unclaimed and the victim's identity remains unknown. Intrigued by this unusual case, the filmmakers set out to unravel the mystery of the dead person. Could it have been a foreigner, illegally working in the country? Or a tourist? Clues pop up and pan out, theories are discredited and still the filmmakers, now detectives, continue on their quest. A riveting documentary that crafts an indelible, moving portrait of a resilient society and people.

Screening: Sunday, May 9, 3:15 pm (Bloor)

NOBODY SWINGS ON SUNDAY

CANADA, 2003, video, 52 min.

Director: Harry Rasky

Renowned filmmaker Harry Rasky (The Song of Leonard Cohen; Homage to Chagall: The Colours of Love) takes a trip back to Toronto's conservative past when no one was allowed to do anything fun and non-religious on the Christian Sabbath. It was also a time of rampant anti-Semitism and intolerance. Rasky tours the old parts of Toronto the Good, speaks to many who recall the good and bad times of the depression-era 30s, and muses about his own experiences growing up. Nobody Swings on Sunday brings an important part of Canadian history to indelible life.

Director Harry Rasky will be in attendance.

with

ALL U CAN EAT

TORONTO PREMIERE

CANADA, 2003, video, 13 min.

Director: Stevi Urben

Immigrant Abraham Novack speaks about his life in Montreal as images of the city flicker across the screen.

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 3:30 pm. (Bloor)

PERLASCA: AN ITALIAN HERO

ITALY, 2002, video, 123 min.

Italian with English subtitles

Director: Alberto Negrin

Writers: Stefano Rulli, Sandro Petraglia.

Cast: Luca Zingaretti, Jerome Anger, Amanda Sandrelli,

Based on the amazing true story of Giorgio Perlasca, an Italian importer in Budapest, Hungary, who, through a complex set of circumstances ended up posing as the Spanish Charge D'affaires, saving 3,500 Jews from certain death in the camps. Well played by Luca Zingaretti in the lead, Perlasca also functions as an edge-of-your-seat thriller as the Italian sets out on his heroic mission.

Carlo Coen, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute will introduce the film

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 8:15 pm. (JCC)

PERMISSION TO REMEMBER

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2003, video, 57 min.

Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Yael Kipper Zaretsky

When a group of survivors challenges the designation of Stephen Wermchuk as one of The Righteous Among the Nations, those gentiles who saved Jews during the Holocaust, they come into conflict with Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust museum. Though the survivors possess evidence that says otherwise, the board running Yad Vashem refuses to consider the possibility that a terrible mistake has been made. A disquieting look at an injustice done and never remedied.

with

SENDER'S LIST**TORONTO PREMIERE****POLAND, 2002, video, 45 min.****English, Polish with English subtitles****Director: Michal Dudziewicz**

If not for three American high school students, Irena Sendler, a Polish gentile who rescued 2500 Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto, would probably have lived out her life in anonymity. After studying her heroic exploits, the students decide they want to meet the heroine who pulled off the seemingly impossible. A moving examination of the meaning – and modesty – of heroism.

Special Jury Prize, Stockholm International Documentary Film Festival, 2003

Screening: Monday, May 3, 11:00 am (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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PROFESSOR MAMLOCK**EAST GERMANY, 1961, 35mm, 99 min.****German with English subtitles****Director: Konrad Wolf****Writers: Konrad Wolf, Georg Engel****Cast: Wolfgang Heinz, Ursula Burg, Hilmar Thate**

As the Nazis consolidate their power in Germany in 1933, Professor Mamlock (Wolfgang Heinz), a renowned chief of surgery in a university hospital, and a Jew, remains blind to the reality of what is going on around him. As fascists and communists fight in the streets, and anti-Semitism begins to manifest itself, Mamlock resists the attempts of his family, including his non-Jewish wife and radical son, to wake him to the new horrors of a threatening world. Based on the 1933 play by outspoken Jewish playwright Friedrich Wolf, which was censored by the Nazis, and directed by his son, Konrad, Professor Mamlock was one of the earliest German films to tackle the subject of the Holocaust. It's also one of the finest films on the subject ever made.

Screening: Friday, May 7, 11:00 am. (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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PROMISED LAND

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2003, video, 52 min.

English, Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Avy Hemy



As violence and terrorism continue to take their toll on Israelis, many of them are queuing up to go abroad. But why would any Jew consider immigrating to Germany, of all places? Avy Hemy profiles three Israelis, who are either already living there, thinking of moving there or holding onto a German passport, just in case... Hemy asks, after the Holocaust, do Jews have a right to even contemplate such a move? A provocative examination of a new reality.

with

A DREAM OF MOTHER

TORONTO PREMIERE

Israel, 2000, video, 27 min.

Director: Chava Schein

Hebrew, Amharic with English subtitles.

Dasesh, a 19-year-old Ethiopian girl living in Israel, apprehensively awaits her mother's arrival from Ethiopia. A poignant film from the Hadassah College of Technology.

Special Showcase, Milano Film Festival, 2001

Screening: Monday, May 3, 1:15 pm. (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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PURIM SAFARI: FREDERIC BRENNER'S JOURNEY AMONGST THE JEWS OF SOUTH AFRICA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL / SOUTH AFRICA, 2003, video, 47 min.

English, Afrikaans with English subtitles

Director: Romi Kaplan



French photographer Frédéric Brenner roams South Africa to unearth the various facets of its changing Jewish community. From an ostrich farmer to a transvestite performance artist to a woman who runs a soup kitchen for her Black neighbors, Purim Safari blends humour and pathos to provocative effect. It's a quirky and unique trip.

Director Romi Kaplan will be in attendance.

with

SANHEDRIN**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE****UNITED KINGDOM, 2003, video, 30 min.****Director: Simon Brasse**

Is it possible that the newly arrived Viennese, vegetarian boarder is who they think it is? A darkly comic, wryly English riff on identity, justice deferred and the pitfalls of vengeance.

also with

JAILBIRDS**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE****ISRAEL, 1999, 16 mm., 15 min.****Hebrew with English subtitles****Writer / Director: Ronit Pollak**

Did Shula cheat on her jailbird husband David with Dror? Now out of prison, David is determined to find out the truth. A zany comedy of ill-manners from the Sam Spiegel Film & Television School, Jerusalem.

Special Mention, Haifa International Film Festival, 1999

Screening: Saturday, May 8, 11:45 pm. (Bloor)

ROSE'S SONGS**TORONTO PREMIERE****HUNGARY / ITALY, 2002, 35mm, 98 min.****Hungarian with English subtitles****Writer / Director: Andor Szilágyi**

Cast: Franco Castellano, Zum Dávid, Djoko Rosic, Maia Morgenstern



As the noose tightens around Hungary's Jews in 1944, the patriarch of a Jewish family fights to save his loved ones, in this powerful drama of bravery and hope. Only the mellifluous voice of the reclusive opera star that sings out each evening prevents them from giving in to despair. But how long can they hold out? A memorable, engrossing film based on a true story.

Special Jury Mention, Best Feature Debut, Karlovy Vary Int'l. Film Festival, 2003

Screening: Sunday, May 9, 2:00 pm. (JCC)

ROSENSTRASSE

GERMANY / THE NETHERLANDS, 2003, 35mm, 136 min.

English, German with English subtitles

Director: Margarethe von Trotta

Writers: Margarethe von Trotta, Pamela Katz

Cast: Katja Riemann, Maria Schrader, Jurgen Vogel



Respected German filmmaker Margarethe von Trotta (Marianne and Julianne; Rosa Luxembourg) has taken a fascinating page from history and crafted a poignant tale of powerful devotion overcoming despotism and hatred. After assuming power in 1933, the Nazis quickly purged the country of its Jews. Some Jews, however, who were the husbands of German Christians, were protected and lived in relative safety in Berlin, until the winter of 1943. Then, suddenly arrested and put in detention, their fate seemed as final as that of the rest of the German Jews. That is, until their 'Aryan' wives intervened and began to stage demonstrations across the street from where the SS was holding their men. Starring Maria Schrader (Aimee and Jaguar), *Rosentrass*e is a touching, compassionate and inspirational love story for the ages.

Best Actress, Katja Riemann, Venice Film Festival, 2003

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 7:15 pm. (Bloor)

Spotlight on Women Filmmakers generously sponsored by



ROUND TRIP

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2003, video, 95 min.

English, Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Shahar Rozen

Writer: Noa Greenberg

Cast: Anat Waxman, Nathati Moshesh, Eyal Rozales



Frustrated with her life, 40-year-old bus driver Nurit decides to take a break from her perpetually unemployed husband. She packs up her two kids and leaves the small northern town of Qiryat Shemona for a new start in a neglected Tel Aviv neighbourhood. There, she falls into a relationship with Mushidi, the Nigerian nanny she's hired to watch her children. Beautifully acted and strikingly directed, *Round Trip* will hold you in thrall.

Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 9:45 pm. (Bloor)

SAMUEL BAK: PAINTER OF QUESTIONS

CANADA, 2003, video, 48 min.

Director: Christa Singer



Artist Samuel Bak, a Holocaust survivor whose striking paintings reflect a turbulent, deeply felt life, is aptly profiled in Christa Singer's warm, moving documentary. Bak's unique artwork, his observations on his craft and testimonies from admiring curators adorn this deceptively simple portrait of a private man. Like the film, he's not someone you'll easily forget.

Director Christa Singer and producer Marike Emery will be in attendance.

K. Corey Keeble, curator Western Art and Culture, Royal Ontario Museum, will introduce the film.

with

THE SOUND TRAVELLER**WORLD PREMIERE**

CANADA, 2003, video, 19 min.

Directors: Erin Tee, Alejandro Galeote, Iain Robinson

Meet Rafi Aaron, a determined Toronto poet who left the world of advertising behind to successfully make it in his new field. An inspiring story of how family support and appreciation can make a difference.

Directors Erin Tee, Iain Robinson and Alejandro Galeote, and artist Rafi Aaron will be in attendance.

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 4:00 pm. (JCC)

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SCHOOL TIES

USA, 1992, 35 mm, 107 min.

Director: Robert Mandel

Writer: Dick Wolf

Cast: Matt Damon, Brendan Fraser, Chris O'Donnell, Ben Affleck



A Jewish football player (Fraser), from a blue-collar background, encounters prejudice when he wins a scholarship to an exclusive prep school in the 1950s. Featuring a who's who of then-unknown Hollywood stars, this sensitive drama packs a powerful punch. From the pen of the talented Dick Wolf (creator of Law & Order).

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 10:00 pm. (Bloor)

SEEKERS OF HAPPINESS

SOVIET UNION, 1936, 35mm, 84 min.

Russian with English subtitles

Director: Vladimir Korsh-Sablin

Writers: Logen Zeltzer, Grigori Kobets

**Cast: Mariya Blyumenthal-Tamarina, V. Zuskin,
L. Schmidt**



Seekers of Happiness follows a Russian-Jewish family enroute to Birobidzhan, site of the Soviet Jewish Autonomous Region on the Chinese border. (L'Chyaim, Comrade Stalin!, TJFF 2002). Like many Jews from the Soviet Union and from abroad, they expect this Jewish "state" to be a promised land but the reality of life in this strange, new 'utopia' is a harsh eye-opener. Seekers of Happiness, which is also known as Birobidzhan: A Greater Promise, paints an overly optimistic portrait of life in Birobidzhan but remains a fascinating document of an almost forgotten time and place.

with

THE BUND: WORK AND REVOLUTION

WORLD PREMIERE

CANADA, 2004, video, 11 min

Directors: Andrea Feder, Carolina May

Toronto Bundists speak on their political beliefs, personal histories and how the left-wing worker's organization impacted their lives in this charming short from Ryerson University students Andrea Feder and Carolina May, (who also contributed promotional 'bumpers' for TJFF 2003).

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 4:00 pm. (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY: AN ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN JOURNEY TO JAPAN

ISRAEL, 2000, video, 52 min.

Director: Dov Gil-Har

English, Japanese, Hebrew, Arabic, with English subtitles



In recent years, the Japanese government, in an attempt to help the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, has sponsored mixed groups of Israelis and Palestinians on trips to Japan. The plan was for the two sides to get to know and understand each other better. Dov Gil-Har followed one such group, as they slept, ate, and argued together, while interacting with their delighted hosts who may have known little about Jews or Arabs. A TJFF revival.

Director Dov Gil-Har and two of the film's subjects, Benny Her-ness and Adnan Joulani, will be in attendance.

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 12:00 pm. (JCC)

STALIN'S DISCIPLES**TORONTO PREMIERE****ISRAEL, 1988, 35mm, 90 min.****Hebrew with English subtitles****Writer / Director: Nadav Levitan****Cast: Hugo Yarden, Yossi Kazz, Rachel Dobson**

The death of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin shakes up the die-hard Stalinists in a kibbutz, who not only have to mourn their fallen leader but are soon forced to absorb Khrushchev's revelations of the crimes Stalin committed while in power. The offer of German reparations for Nazi war crimes only further tests their socialist resolve. A comic, classic gem, tinged with sadness, the little-seen *Stalin's Disciples* affectionately mocks the political correctness of its day while exposing the foibles of its all too human cast of characters.

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 1:15 pm. (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by



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STATELESS, ARROGANT AND LUNATIC**SWEDEN, 1998, video, 100 min.****English, German with English subtitles****Director: Lena Einhorn**

The amazing true story of Gilel Storch — a mysterious Latvian Jewish refugee in Sweden. He initiated talks with leading Nazi Heinrich Himmler to save Jews from the gas chambers in the waning days of the war. That Himmler would consent to meet with a Jewish representative, is just one of the many remarkable revelations in this documentary / drama. One of the strangest stories of World War II and an enthralling film. A TJFF revival.

Winner, Picture & Word Academy Award, Stockholm, 1998

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 2:00 pm. (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by



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THE SUNSHINE BOYS**USA, 1975, video, 111 min.****Director: Herbert Ross****Writer: Neil Simon****Cast: Walter Matthau, George Burns, Richard Benjamin**

Two famed vaudevillians, Lewis and Clark (George Burns, Walter Matthau), long estranged from each other, are reluctantly re-united for a TV special in Neil Simon's hilarious satire. Based on the antics of real-life duo Smith and Dale, *The Sunshine Boys* highlights Burns and Matthau at their comedic best while offering a stellar turn by Richard Benjamin as Clark's determined nephew / agent Ben.

Best Supporting Actor, George Burns, Academy Awards, 1976
 Best Supporting Actor-Motion Picture, Richard Benjamin, Golden Globe Awards, 1976
 Best Motion Picture Actor-Musical / Comedy, Walter Matthau, Golden Globe Awards, 1976
 Best Motion Picture-Musical / Comedy, Golden Globe Awards, 1976

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 11:00 am. (Bloor)

Programme generously sponsored by SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY

Weekday Matinees presented by



Official Newspaper Sponsor

LE TANGO DES RASHEVSKI (THE RASHEVSKI TANGO)

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

BELGIUM / FRANCE / LUXEMBOURG, 2003, 35mm, 97 min.

French with English subtitles

Director: Sam Garbarski

Writer: Philippe Blasband

Cast: Hippolyte Girardot, Ludmila Mikael, Michel Jonasz



When Grandmother Rosa suddenly dies, her various assimilated or half-Jewish family members are thrown into turmoil. Should her funeral service be a religious Jewish one? Should all the mourning customs be observed? The answers aren't easy ones, especially when one granddaughter decides to return to her Jewish roots. A delicate mix of witty satire and thoughtful drama, *Le Tango des Rashevski* goes in directions you don't expect, even as it smartly explores the many meanings of being Jewish today. From Sam Garbarski, director of the popular shorts *La Dinde* (TJFF 1999) and *La vie, la mort et le foot* (TJFF 2002).

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 7:30 pm. (Bloor)

Repeat Screening: Monday, May 3, 4:00 pm. (JCC)

Programme generously sponsored by

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LA TERZA LUNA (THE THIRD MOON)

ITALY / SWITZERLAND / FRANCE, 1997, 35mm, 81 min.

Italian with English subtitles

Director: Matteo Bellinelli

Writers: Matteo Bellinelli, Daniel Goldenberg

Cast: Omero Antonutti, Roberto Citran, Alessandra Acciai

An architect's assignment to renovate an old mansion in Venice brings him into contact with an elderly novelist and the young woman who takes care of him. As the architect becomes involved in the writer's turbulent life, which includes a love affair with a Jewish girl during WWII, fact and fiction begin to meld. Ravishingly shot, *The Third Moon* is a gorgeous, hypnotic, cinematic illusion. A TJFF revival.

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 12:00 pm. (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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THUNDER IN GUYANA

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA, 2003, video, 51 min.

Director: Suzanne Wasserman



Who would have ever imagined that Jewish Chicago-born Janet Jagan, nee Rosenberg, would, at age 77, be running for president of Guyana? As a rebellious, independent young woman, in the conservative 1940s, she defied her family by marrying the charismatic Cheddi Jagan, an East Indian medical student. When

Jagan decided to return home to (then) British Guyana, hoping to effect democratic change in his homeland, Janet went with him. Covering years of political intrigue, passions and despair, *Thunder in Guyana* is further proof that the best stories come out of real life.

Nadira Jagan – Brancier, Janet Jagan's daughter, will be in attendance.

with

BACKSEAT BINGO

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA, 2004, 35mm, 7 min.

Director: Liz Blazer



Seniors talk about sex, their emotional needs and their expectations of life in this delightful animated film.

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

Screening: Sunday, May 9, 1:00 pm. (Bloor)

Spotlight on Women Filmmakers generously sponsored by



A VILNA LEGEND (THE RABBI'S POWER)

POLAND, 1924 / USA, 1933, video, 60 min.

Yiddish with English subtitles

Directors: Sigmund Turkoff 1924 / George Roland 1933

Narrator: Joseph Buloff

Original Cast: Ida Kaminski, Sigmund Turkoff

1933 Cast: Jacob Mestel, Leib Kodison, Benjamin Fishbein



The original cut of *A Vilna Legend* (also known as *Tkies Kaf*) was a ribald tale of frustrated love and destiny, and a broken vow, concerning the match of a yeshiva student and a poor girl. In 1933, a group of New York Yiddish actors decided to give the original 1924 silent film a makeover, adding Yiddish narration and several new scenes. Recently restored by the National Center for Jewish Film, *A Vilna Legend* remains one of the enduring classics.

with

A CANTOR ON TRIAL

USA, 1931, 35mm, 10 min.

Yiddish with English subtitles

Director: Sidney M. Goldin

Famous real-life Cantor Leibel Waldman plays multiple roles in this clever spoof on synagogue hiring practices. An uproarious Yiddish classic.

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

Screening: Sunday, May 9, 11:00 am. (Bloor)

THE WALL

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

NETHERLANDS, 2003, video, 54 min.

English, Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles

Director: Benny Brunner



Israel calls it a terror prevention barrier. The Palestinians refer to it as a land grab. Those are the labels attached to a controversial wall, which is currently being built to separate Israel from the Territories. This highly critical point-of-view documentary, by outspoken filmmaker Benny Brunner (co-director of *It Is No Dream*, and director of *The Children of Abraham & Sophie*, TJFF 2004), attacks the wall as a "symptom" of what ails Israel. *The Wall* features Israeli leftists, such as journalist Amira Hass (*Between the Lines*, TJFF 2003) and political activist Haim Hanegbi, who condemn it in no uncertain terms, as well as Palestinians who decry its adverse effects on their livelihood. Topical as they come, *The Wall*, which was made for the Dutch newsmagazine show *Counter View*, is sure to engender debate and discussion.

Director Benny Brunner will be in attendance.

with

UNE BARRIERE CONTRE LA TERREUR

(A BARRIER AGAINST TERROR)

WORLD PREMIERE

FRANCE / ISRAEL, 2004, video, 25 min.

French, Arabic, Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Michel Hait

Another powerful view of the wall. Tracing a path from the breakdown of the Oslo Accords, which the film blames on Yasser Arafat, to today's unremitting climate of Palestinian terrorism, *Une barriere contre la terreur* suggests that Israel has no choice but to build a wall to protect herself and her citizens. A strong statement.

Director Michel Hait will be in attendance.

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 1:00 pm. (Bloor)

WONDROUS OBLIVION

UNITED KINGDOM, 2003, 35mm, 97 min.

Writer / Director: Paul Morrison

Cast: Delroy Lindo, Emily Woof, Stanley Townsend, Sam Smith



London, 1960, and sleepy 11-year-old David Wiseman is only interested in one thing: cricket. The problem is, he's not very good at the game, and on the school team he has been relegated to the lowly role of scorekeeper. Then, to the horror of the neighbourhood, a Jamaican family moves in next door and David's life suddenly changes. An engrossing, insightful look at race relations, racism and the plight of immigrants, Jewish and

Black, recently arrived in an intolerant land. Wondrous Oblivion avoids clichés in its deft sketching of a memorable time and place. From Paul Morrison, director of Solomon and Gaenor (TJFF 2000).

with

HIGH FIVE

USA, 1992, 35mm, 3 min.

Director: Rob Aden

Hasids hit the basketball court and challenge a team of African-American players to a game. A TJFF revival.

Screening: Saturday, May 8, 9:30 pm. (Bloor)

Programme generously sponsored by LINDA AND WILL HECHTER

YOSSI & JAGGER

Co – Presented with the Inside Out Toronto Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival

ISRAEL, 2002, 35mm, 65 min.

Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Eytan Fox

Writer: Avner Berenheimer

Cast: Ohad Knoller, Yehuda Levi, Assi Cohen.



Focusing on a tightly-knit Israeli army unit which is guarding the Lebanese border, Yossi & Jagger portrays the romantic relationship between two of its soldiers: Yossi (Oded Knoller), the quiet, by-the-books company commander, and the aptly

nicknamed Jagger (Yehuda Levi), who has the charisma of a rock star. Jagger, whose army term is almost up, wants to come out of the closet, but Yossi, who's a career military man, fears the repercussions. Beautifully directed by Eytan Fox, one of Israel's best filmmakers (Song of the Siren, TJFF 1996), Yossi & Jagger is a deeply felt, complex and non-stereotypical story, a subtle and poignant telling of a moving love affair.

Warning: Scenes of sexuality

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 9:45 pm. (Bloor)

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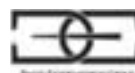
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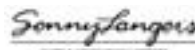
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