

**THE 13TH ANNUAL Toronto Jewish Film Festival**

May 7–15, 2005

(416) 324-9121

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# Welcome



**Helen Zukerman,**  
**Executive Director**

Photo credit:  
Aviva Zukerman Schure

The roster of films for our Bar/Bat Mitzvah year is a true reflection of our coming of age. This year saw its share of innovation, beginning with the concept of a team approach to programming. The results are evident—one hundred and one films from 19 countries.

Our “Chai Tea & A Movie” series at the Sheppard Grande Cinema saw full houses. News and Schmooze, our online newsletter, keeps members informed. An alliance with the TZP (The Zionist Partnership), a combination of youth organizations, brings new audiences to both. Film distributors began to recognize the advantage of pre-releasing their films with us to create wonderful word-of-mouth. We “chai-tea-ed” *The Merchant of Venice* and *Walk on Water* and, for the Festival, we’re pre-screening *Protocols of Zion*.

We are shining a Spotlight on Israeli Cinema, with a strong emphasis on feature-length dramatic films. This is a year of plenty, with many Canadian and Toronto premieres. We introduce French and Russian nights with tastes of crêpes, herring and vodka. We are honoured to host a “Special Presentation” of *Protocols of Zion* on Sunday, May 8, followed by a question-and-answer period with director Marc Levin, and special guest Mark Weitzman, author of *Dismantling the Big Lie*.

Films dealing with goodness and heroism, such as the Oscar®-nominated *Sister Rose’s Passion*, about a nun who dared the Catholic church to absolve the Jews of the murder of Jesus. *Another Side of Peace*, a film about Israeli and Palestinian families who have lost loved ones and meet regularly to support one other and the peace process.

Music is the theme of several films, such as the quirky and wonderful “West Bank Story.” Creative short films from film schools in Israel, Canada and the U.S. enhance many of our programs. Girls and boys celebrating their bat/bar mitzvahs this year are invited to a free film programme at the Al Green Theatre, including T-shirts and a fountain pen!

Just as we break a glass at weddings to recognize the sorrows that accompany joy; just as we remember by name those not present at simchas, and just as we try to remember how it is to be a slave at a Seder, so we remember those lost to the Festival. We remember Debra Plotkin, who passed away long before her time, yet left her mark not only on this Festival, as co-founder, but on all of us. We remember the colourful Vera Gross, who arrived every morning, sat in the first row on the left; stayed for the last show, leaving only when we arranged her ride home. We remember crack volunteer Morry Liebowitz, always smiling and doing crossword puzzles between shows. We remember Edward Bronfman, the gentle and understated philanthropist who, with his quiet dignity and wry sense of humour, supported the Festival since its inception. Rest in peace, Edward.

Mostly we remember our dear friend David A. Stein, who fashioned our movie trailers for the last three years. Instead of a trailer this year, there is a hole in our program, but nowhere near the size of the one in our hearts.

As a tribute to them all, we showcase the medium they loved so much.

TODAY WE ARE A FILM FESTIVAL!

# Festival at a Glance

## TJFF 2005

**Ticket Hotline: 416-324-9121**

<b>MAY</b> 2005	<b>7</b> Saturday	<b>8</b> Sunday	<b>9</b> Monday	<b>10</b> Tuesday
<b>11:00</b> am		Green Fields		
<b>12:00</b> Noon		Local Filmmakers Showcase	Shylock	Moments: Israel 2004, The Face of the Nation
<b>1:00, 1:30</b> pm		Perla: The Last of the Seven Dwarfs 1:30	Nina's Tragedies 1:00	Henry's Dream 1:00
<b>2:00</b> pm		Bar/Bat Mitzvah Programme	The Bunker: The Inverted Identity of Cohen Gan	2 Minutes From Faradis
<b>3:00</b> pm		Stalin's Last Purge	Metallic Blues	Wagner's Confession
<b>4:00</b> pm		Edgar G. Ulmer: The Man Off-Screen	Jews of Iran	And Then Who Are We? Meeting with the Jews Living in Poland
<b>5:00</b> pm		Sister Rose's Passion + Poumy	Sentenced to Marriage + Keep Not Silent	Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi
<b>6:00</b> pm		Family Matters	Odessa Odessa	At the Green Line
<b>7:00, 7:15, 7:30</b> pm			Watermarks 7:30	Le Grand rôle 7:15
<b>8:00</b> pm		Protocols of Zion (with programme)		
<b>8:15</b> pm		Turn Left at the End of the World	Paper Snow	The Last Jews of Baghdad
<b>9:30, 9:45</b> pm	The Syrian Bride 9:30		Awake Zion 9:30	Man is a Woman 9:45
<b>12:00</b> midnight	Jericho's Echo: Punk Rock in the Holy Land			

Film titles are  
colour coded to  
theatres.

Al Green Theatre  
Miles Nadal JCC  
750 Spadina Ave  
Toronto, Ontario

Bloor Cinema  
506 Bloor St W  
Toronto, Ontario

11 Wednesday	12 Thursday	13 Friday	14 Saturday	15 Sunday
				Gray Matter
The Man Who Loved Haugesund	Don't Call It Heimweh	To Take a Wife (repeat)		Sentenced to Marriage (with panel)
Wall 1:00	A Cantor's Tale 1:00	Not in My Name 1:00		King of the Corner 1:00
Another Road Home	Gloomy Sunday	Recuerdos		cinévardaphoto: Ydessa, les ours et etc...
The Hungarian Servant	Shalom, Jordan.	Journey to Jerusalem		Jonathan Pollard: American Fall Guy
Women for Sale	Finding Eleazar	Under Water		Private Screening— Canadian Friends of Israel Elwyn
Go for Zucker: An Unorthodox Comedy	One Shot			Another Side of Peace
Film as a Subversive Art: Amos Vogel and Cinema 16	Under Strange Skies			100 Children
Edelweiss Pirates 7:00	Lost Embrace 7:00			Campfire 7:30 Private Screening— First Narayever 7:30
The Aryan Couple	David A. Stein Tribute			
To Take a Wife 9:30	Atash 9:30		Or (Mon trésor) 9:30	Papa 9:30
			Channels of Rage	

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# Spotlight on Israeli Cinema



**Amit Breuer,**  
**Guest Curator**

It's a real pleasure this year for me to present a special programme—Spotlight on Israeli Cinema.

It was indeed an outstanding year for Israeli movies. While Israeli documentaries have gained international success, this year is the breakthrough year for dramatic features. Thanks to the 2001 law allocating money for filmmaking, financial support for the industry increased, from both public Israeli film funds and private investors, resulting in significantly more films being produced. Last year, 23 movies were released! Moreover, the Israeli audience regained confidence in "home-grown" films. Not only did attendance grow from 600,000 in 2003 to 1.3 million in 2004, but income from international sales grew by 80%.

In the last year, Israeli movies received more than 20 international festival awards. Our Opening Night film, *The Syrian Bride*, won four from the 2004 Montréal World Film Festival, including the FIPRESCI Prize and the People's Choice, plus major honours from Flanders and Locarno. *Campfire* received a Special Mention from Berlin and the FIPRESCI Prize from Chicago. *Or (Mon trésor)* tied for Cannes' prestigious *Caméra d'or* as well as winning Best Feature Film for a young filmmaker, the Critics Week Grand Prize, the Young Critics Award, and the SAGD Screenwriting Award, plus the Grand Prix from the Bratislava International Film Festival. It tied with *Atash*, which we're also screening, for Best Israeli Feature from the Jerusalem Film Festival. *Atash*, an extraordinary artistic achievement, won Cannes' FIPRESCI Prize and the Special Jury Prize at the Paris Biennale of Arab Cinema.

The Israeli short films we've chosen, such as *Poisoned* and *Door to Door*, showcase the next generation's bolder, more confrontational voice. And the dramas that were first broadcast on Israeli television, such as *2 Minutes From Faradis* and *Under Water*, illustrate the broad scope of subjects and styles being creatively explored.

Our selection here brings a wide spectrum of topics, ranging from small human stories such as *Nina's Tragedies*, *Henry's Dream* and *Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi*, to the seldom depicted early Tel Aviv in *Paper Snow*, and the multicultural Israel we meet in *Turn Left at the End of the World*, and *To Take A Wife*. Religious and political issues form the background for *Atash*, *Campfire* and *The Syrian Bride*.

All in all, it's a collection of work from wonderfully talented filmmakers. Their personal stories together create a fascinating tapestry we hope you'll enjoy.

Spotlight on Israeli Cinema is made possible by  
the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY



## David A. Stein Tribute



David A. Stein

We dedicate this Festival to the memory of David A. Stein. What can I say about David, other than tell you how he came to me and to the Festival.

He telephoned me one day to say he had been given my name because he was making a short film and could our Foundation contribute some much-needed funding for his project. I explained that we didn't fund filmmaking because of the costs. David being David, however, wangled a meeting with me "just for a few minutes." He told me about his film, to be called *Needle and Tread*, and that it would be dedicated to his "bubbie," who had worked in the factories on Spadina Avenue. My mother had worked "piecework" in the Montreal factories and both my father and uncle were part of that immigrant experience, so I listened carefully. What captured me was his wonderful smile, his sparkling eyes and, most of all, his passion. His passion for his bubbie, for his work and for life. He left with a cheque, albeit a small one, but nevertheless a cheque.

As things turned out, the film was ready for our Festival and we scheduled its world premiere. David spoke about the film and then introduced his bubbie, who was given a standing ovation by about 600 people. David was absolutely beaming and it wasn't until he passed away that I learned of their unique and loving relationship.

When the time came for our 10th anniversary, we decided we wanted to do a "Mazel Tov" piece so I called David. After I explained to him that we had NO MONEY but were offering him the job anyway, he threw himself into the task with his usual passion, produced a wonderfully funny trailer, and elicited "Mazel Tovs" in Yiddish from city firefighters, Members of Parliament and others in the community. We continued to bestow on him this plum job with no remuneration and were in the process of discussing this year's Bar/Bat Mitzvah piece, when David was stricken and passed away so quickly.

As I write this piece, the last week of March, David's beloved bubbie passed away after a long and wonderful life but at least unaware that David was gone. He would have wanted it that way. They both live on through the medium of film. I can only hope that their souls are somehow together. We all talk about David with disbelief that he is gone. On a personal level though, I think of him often and my heart is broken.

David's family and friends have planned this tribute to him. It is a free, ticketed event that will feature some material that has not been seen before as well as comments by friends and colleagues. Please contact the Festival office for tickets. On Sunday May 15 at 3pm we honour David by screening his final film—Jonathan Pollard: American Fall Guy. It was shown recently on the History channel, but we have additional footage of David in Israel, as he was completing the film.

Helen Zukerman  
Executive Director



## Opening Night Film

### THE SYRIAN BRIDE

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

Israel / France / Germany 2004, 97 min

Hebrew, Arabic, English, Russian, French  
with English subtitles

**Director:** Eran Riklis

**Writers:** Suha Arraf, Eran Riklis

**Cast:** Hiam Abbass, Makram J. Khoury, Clara Khoury



Mona is a beautiful bride and it's the saddest day of her life. Once she leaves the Golan Heights, she becomes a Syrian citizen and can never return to her Druze village. To make matters worse, her father, a political activist on probation, is not allowed to accompany her to the border. As if family dynamics and bureaucratic red tape weren't enough to ruin the wedding, a passport screw-up leaves the bride, in her wedding dress, sitting at the checkpoint. As Druze identity is undefined, family loyalties are likewise stretched to the breaking point. A pointed allegory, beautifully shot and acted.

Montreal World Film Festival 2004 –  
Best Film, Public Award, FIPRESCI Award,  
Ecumenical Award  
Locarno 2004 – Public Choice Award

Guest: Director Eran Riklis

with

### WEST BANK STORY

USA 2004, 22 min

English

**Director:** Ari Sandel

**Writers:** Kim Ray and Ari Sandel

**Cast:** Ben Newmark, Noreen Dewult, A.J. Tannen,  
Joey Naber

A wacky satire of the beloved classic West Side Story. Call it a Middle East Side Story. The Kosher King fast-food stand faces off against its arch-competitor, the Hummus Hut. What will happen when Fatima falls in love with an Israeli soldier boy? Tempers flare, fingers snap. Can the couple's love withstand their duelling families' desire to control the future of the chickpea in the Middle East? A hilarious, self-reflexive fairytale about the hope of peace, complete with a little singing, a little dancing, and a lot of... hummus.

Screening: Saturday May 7, 9:30pm

Opening Night Film generously sponsored by:



## Special Presentation

### PROTOCOLS OF ZION

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA 2004, 92 min

English, Hebrew

Director: Marc Levin



In 1905, the infamous anti-Semitic propaganda treatise called The Protocols of the Elders of Zion was first published. In 1920, Henry Ford, notorious Jew-hater and friend of Hitler, gave a free copy with every car sold. Probably written around the turn of the century by agents of the Russian Czar's secret police, the Protocols have returned and proliferated with a vengeance since the 9/11 attack. The filmmaker interrogates the mistaken but widely held belief that no Jews died in the bombing. With remarkable restraint, from the streets of New York to the mountains of West Virginia, he interviews White supremacists, Holocaust deniers, newspaper publishers and radio hosts who, sometimes coming out with inadvertently hilarious remarks, have propagated the claim of a diabolical plot by Jews to control.

Guests: Director Marc Levin and Mark Weitzman, co-author of Dismantling the Big Lie

Special programme follows.

This screening generously sponsored by THE GERALD SCHWARTZ & HEATHER REISMAN FOUNDATION

Screening: Sunday May 8, 8pm (Bloor)

## Closing Night Film

### PAPA (DAD)

CANADIAN PREMIERE

RUSSIA 2004, 94 min

Russian

Director: Vladimir Mashkov

Writers: Aleksandr Galich, Vladimir Mashkov

Cast: Vladimir Mashkov, Egor Beroev,

Andrey Rozendent, Sergey Dreyden



This heartbreaking historical melodrama takes place in an imaginary Ukrainian shtetl in 1929, in Moscow in 1939, and then during the war. The director stars in the title role, a proud papa, Abram, who pushes his son, David, to practise, practise, practise the violin. They are poor village people, but the talented boy makes it to the Moscow conservatory of music, fulfilling his promise as a top student. After three years, the country father arrives, unannounced, to visit his son, the prodigy, in the big city. David is ashamed of his father's provincialism. The first major Russian feature with a shtetl Jew as the hero.

Guest invited.

The Festival is very grateful to Anna Shternshis for her tenacity in helping us obtain this film.

Screening: Sunday May 15 9:30pm (Bloor)

Closing Night Film generously sponsored by:



## Free Programmes

Tickets are required for these free events and screenings.

### BAR/BAT MITZVAH PROGRAMME

In honour of our 13th year, a series of shorts with coming-of-age themes—Elliot Smelliot, Today You Are A Fountain Pen, Universal Rituals and Untitled. See page 16 for details.

Screening: Sunday May 8, 2pm (JCC)

This programme generously sponsored by:



### A CANTOR'S TALE

Cantors used to be revered celebrities. The story of one man's journey to pass on the tradition. Seniors admitted free. See page 18 for details.

Screening: Thursday, May 12, 1pm (Bloor)

### DAVID A. STEIN TRIBUTE

The Festival recently lost a special friend. A tribute event. See page 20 for details.

Screening: Thursday, May 12, 8:15 (JCC)

### JONATHAN POLLARD: AMERICAN FALL GUY

Pollard is a convicted American spy, serving a life sentence for passing secrets to Israel. David A. Stein's last film. See page 28 for details.

Screening: Sunday May 15, 3pm (Bloor)

### GREEN FIELDS (GRINE FELDER)

Bring your mother or grandmother to this Yiddish film on Mother's Day and she gets in free! See page 25 for details.

Screening: Sunday May 8, 11am (Bloor)

### LOCAL FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE

A series of short films in a variety of genres by up-and-coming Toronto-area filmmakers—Elliot Smelliot, Florida: A Snowbirds Paradise?, The Human Kazoo, Pigeon, and Sob Story. The directors will be present for informal Q & A. See pages 29 and 30 for details.

Screening: Sunday May 8, 12pm (JCC)

### SHYLOCK

The National Film Board examines Shakespeare's most controversial character. See page 38 for details.

Screening: Monday May 9, 12pm (JCC)

## 2 MINUTES FROM FARADIS

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**ISRAEL 2003, 43 min**

**Hebrew, Arabic**

**Director: Daniel Syrkin**

**Writer: Michal Cooper Keren**

**Cast: Efrat Baumwald, Hesham Sliman,**

**Shmuel Vilozny, Nuly Omer**



The scenery is gorgeous but it's just boring if you're 17 and looking for excitement—and tongue piercings. Yuli's mother, a psychologist, and father, a Shiatsu therapist, are so liberal she has nothing to rebel against. How to annoy them? Dating a hunky Arab ought to do the trick. It's only two minutes to the neighbouring Muslim village of Faradis, but it's a world away. Sly romantic comedy explores and satirizes personal and political prejudices on both sides.

Banff, Monte Carlo, Cinéma Tout Ecran - Best Short Drama

with

## POISONED

**ISRAEL 2004, 32 min**

**Hebrew**

**Director / Writer: Video Machine**

Zvi, a young paratrooper in the '67 war, his girlfriend, Khen, and a hippie stranger, Krishna, walk in the desert. Khen, whom Krishna calls a desert princess, is stuck between an army misfit and her uptight soldier. With sped-up footage of a surreal landscape, and game-playing with

time and space, it's wonderfully weird, in a Fellini-goes-to-Israel kind of way. Political existentialism.

Screening: Tuesday May 10, 2pm (JCC)

Spotlight on Israeli Cinema is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY

Weekday Matinees presented by

**» TORONTO STAR «**

Official Newspaper Sponsor

## 100 CHILDREN

**ISRAEL 2003, 60 min**

**Hebrew, Polish**

**Directors: Amalia Margolin, Oshra Schwartz**



After Lena Kuchler-Silberman, a young teacher and psychologist, lost her only child in the Holocaust, she spent the rest of her life caring for Jewish war orphans. Sick, lonely, hungry, stripped of trust and safety, these children had every reason to give up after their parents were killed. Lena rescued them, and loved them back to life at the institutes she founded in Poland.. One story involves Pope John Paul II as a young seminary student. Exceptionally moving tribute to a fearless woman who gave 100 children a second chance.

Guest invited.

with

**LINE OF LIFE (LIGNE DE VIE)****FRANCE 2003, 12 min****French****Director: Serge Avedikian**

The idea came from the paintings and history of artist Raymond Delvax. The painterly animation and dazzling artwork unfolds in browns, blacks and shades of grey with occasional and startling reds and blues. Cut-out figures depict life in a concentration camp, where a certain bearded man was always drawing.

Screening: Sunday May 15, 6pm (JCC)

This screening generously sponsored by  
the SHARNA FOUNDATION

**AND THEN, WHO ARE WE? MEETING  
WITH THE JEWS LIVING IN POLAND  
(ET NOUS, QUI SOMMES NOUS?)**
**TORONTO PREMIERE****FRANCE 2004, 58 min****French, Polish, English****Directors: Barbara Schuch, Sophie Sensier**

"There are no Jews left in Poland, except my cousin." That was a common view until historians began investigating. Of Poland's 3 1/2 million Jews, 90% were murdered. Even if 90% of those remaining left, that still leaves 30,000 or so who had children and grandchildren. Who are these Jews living in Poland? Poles with Jewish origins? Jewish Poles? Polish Jews?

Some are from France or Sweden. Everybody has a complicated story in a country that hasn't settled its score with the past.

Guest: Director Barbara Schuch

with

**SABBATH SHOES****ISRAEL 2004, 10 min****Hebrew****Director: Zohar Behrendt**

Everybody knows that if you click your heels together three times, your wish comes true. But what if you don't have the red shoes? Zoe has seen The Wizard of Oz and she wants those shoes.

Screening: Tuesday May 10, 4pm (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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**ANOTHER ROAD HOME****USA 2004, 78 min****English****Director: Danae Elon**

One day after the Six Day War in 1967, a Palestinian father of eleven children came knocking on the door of a Jewish family in Jerusalem, looking for work. They hired him on the spot, and he stayed for 20 years. Now the daugh-

ter, the filmmaker, goes searching for the man who was always there for her. She also tries to locate some of his eight sons, all of whom he sent to the U.S. to get an education far from the violence. A story that probes deep bonds that not even politics can put asunder.

Screening: Wednesday May 11, 2pm (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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## ANOTHER SIDE OF PEACE

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**ISRAEL 2004, 60 min**

**English, Hebrew, Arabic**

**Director: Ellen Frick**



"Only revenge will lift up the head of my bereaved people," a poet wrote. That's not what Roni Hirshenzon believes. After the death of his second son, he founded The Parents Circle, for grieving families. The group, whose motto is No More Death, fielded some 200,000 phone calls last year. If you're an Israeli, a Palestinian will call you, and if you're a Palestinian, an Israeli will call you. "If we can talk to each other, then anyone can," says this Israeli father. Seeking reconciliation rather than forgiveness, this is one group that wants to grow smaller.

Guest: Director Ellen Frick

Screening: Sunday May 15, 5pm (Bloor)

## THE ARYAN COUPLE

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**USA 2004, 119 min**

**English**

**Director: John Daly**

**Writers: John Daly, Kendrew Lascelles**

**Cast: Martin Landau, Judy Parfitt, Kenny Doughty,**

**Caroline Carver**



Joseph and Rachel Krauzenberg are prosperous Hungarian Jews in 1944 who, over the years, have provided work for some 3000 employees, including a young Aryan couple. The Krauzenbergs are ordered to host a dinner for Gestapo officers Himmler and Eichmann at which they are expected to trade their fortune for freedom and a plane to Palestine. Bitter irony and almost unbearable emotional undercurrents emerge from various acts of uncommon kindness as well as common cruelty. Gripping performances and lush cinematography.

Screening: Wednesday May 11, 8:15pm (JCC)

**AT THE GREEN LINE****CANADIAN PREMIERE****USA 2004, 53 min****English, Hebrew****Director: Jesse Atlas**

After the '67 war with Egypt, Syria and Jordan, the border between Israel and the West Bank and Gaza Strip became known as "The Green Line." The reality of these occupied territories is that Israeli soldiers are at war with civilians. This film concerns itself with the young people in the military, in training camps, and at check-points and outposts and their views on the moral education of soldiers at a time when military principles of war seem less clear. A group of soldiers called "Courage to Refuse" claims the strategies of the Israeli Defence Forces undermine the idea of a defensive army. They would rather go to jail than cross that Green Line.

Guest: Director Jesse Atlas

with

**CRICKETS****ISRAEL 2004, 13 min****Hebrew****Director: Matan Guggenheim**

Iddo is disturbed to find a club that places bets on when and where the next terrorist attack will take place. Many bettors, who have also lost relatives, seem to find the activity cathartic. Suffering post-traumatic cricket sounds inside his head,

Iddo feels compelled to try it. Will the crickets go away? Shocking drama in documentary style.

Screening: Tuesday May 10, 6pm (JCC)

**ATASH (THIRST)****CANADIAN PREMIERE****ISRAEL 2004, 110 min****Arabic****Director / Writer: Tawfik Abu Wael**

**Cast: Hussein Yassin Mahajne, Amal Bweerat, Roba Blal, Gamila Abu Hussein, Ahmed Abed El Gani**



The Arabic Shukri family has lived for ten years on confiscated land, where they hew wood and draw water. The bitter and stubborn patriarch, Abu, longs to build a water pipeline, but tap water can't solve the problems of his dysfunctional family and the politics of location. Spare use of dialogue and music echoes the rhythms of a difficult life. Indelible images, searing drama, and remarkable performances by first-time actors.

Israeli Film Academy Awards 2004 - Best Cinematography  
Cannes Film Festival 2004 - FIPRESCI Prize  
Jerusalem Film Festival 2004 - Best Israeli Feature, tied with *Mon Trésor*.  
Paris Biennale of Arab Cinema 2004 - Special Jury Prize  
Jerusalem Film Festival – Best Film

Screening: Thursday May 12, 9:30pm (Bloor)

Spotlight on Israeli Cinema is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY



## **AWAKE ZION**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**USA 2004, 59 min**

**English, Patois, Hebrew**

**Director / Writer: Monica Haim**



Growing up Jewish in Miami Beach, the director was not only intrigued by Rastafarian culture and its message of truth, love and understanding, but found it oddly familiar. She travels to Jamaica, Los Angeles, Israel and New York to discover historical intersections of Jews and Black Africans in a multi-layered, upbeat, music-filled history of the bloodlines of ancient kings. Is Rasta and reggae a missing piece of Judaism? Whose history is it anyway?

Guest: Director Monica Haim

Screening: Monday May 9, 9:30pm (Bloor)

## **BAR/BAT MITZVAH PROGRAMME**

**TICKETED FREE SCREENING, 60 min**

In honour of our 13th year, a series of shorts with coming-of-age themes:

### **TODAY YOU ARE A FOUNTAIN PEN**

**USA 2002, 24 min**

**English**

**Director / Writer: Dan Katzir**

Based on a true story, this film follows the bit-

tersweet tale of Jake, three days from his 1989 Bar Mitzvah in a Los Angeles suburb. As he bonds with his grandfather (Len Lesser from Seinfeld), Jake indeed begins to grow up.

Screening: Sunday May 8, 2pm (JCC)

### **UNIVERSAL RITUALS**

**CANADA 2004, 5 min**

**English**

**Director: Yaron Betan**

As a restless boy studies for his Bar Mitzvah, his father explains the importance of understanding the Torah. But is that going to help him when a spaceship lands in the backyard?

Screening: Sunday May 8, 2pm (JCC)

### **UNTITLED**

**CANADA 1995, 15 min**

**English**

**Director: Seth Kramer**

In an attempt to fathom the number six million, on January 1st, 1994 filmmaker Seth Kramer set out to count six million grains of rice, one for each murdered Jew. How long will it take?

Screening: Sunday May 8, 2pm (JCC)

This programme generously sponsored by:



**BONJOUR MONSIEUR SHLOMI****TORONTO PREMIERE****ISRAEL 2003, 95 min****Hebrew****Director / Writer: Shemi Zarhin****Cast: Oshri Cohen, Arieh Elias, Esti Zakheim,  
Aya Koren, Yigal Naor, Albert Iluz**

Sixteen-year-old Shlomi Bardayan is a responsible boy. He takes care of everybody in his delightfully dysfunctional family. Suddenly, it's discovered that the bored and unexceptional student is a naturally brilliant math whiz. What does Shlomi want? Not much, until the beautiful Rona moves in next-door. Charming family drama.

with

**A DIFFERENT WAR****ISRAEL 2003, 16 min****Hebrew****Director / Writer: Nadav Gal**

Noni is a sensitive fourth-grader who has been chosen to play King David in the school play. His brother insists on climbing the wall to taunt Arabs, but that's not in Noni's nature. He secretly wants to play the role of the princess.

New York Children's Film Festival 2004 - Special Jury Award

Screening: Tuesday May 10, 5pm (Bloor)

Spotlight on Israeli Cinema is made possible by  
the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY**THE BUNKER:  
THE INVERTED IDENTITY  
OF COHEN GAN****CANADIAN PREMIERE****ISRAEL 2003, 50 min****English, Hebrew****Directors: Nitza Gonen, Dalit Sharon**

What is an artist? According to Pinhas Cohen Gan, it's someone who makes something out of nothing. A profile of the brilliant, prickly, eccentric, conceptual artist who has carried out installations all over the world. One piece is a small bronze casting called Hitler's Bunker that no museum in Israel wanted to show.

with

**THE LOSER WHO WON****AUSTRALIA 2004, 20 min****English****Director: Jack Feldstein**

In this quirkily narrated animated world, a boring actuary in Melbourne suddenly senses a world of possibilities. He hopes it includes the beautiful tax accountant across the hall, but old Mrs. Klein has other plans for him. She's going to fix him up.

Screening: Monday May 9, 2pm (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

**TORONTO STAR**

Official Newspaper Sponsor

## **CAMPFIRE (MEDURAT HASHEVET)**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**ISRAEL 2004, 95 min**

**Hebrew**

**Director / Writer: Joseph Cedar**

**Cast: Michaela Eshet, Hani Furstenberg, Moshe Ivgy, Maya Haron, Assi Dayan, Yehoram Gaon**



Rachel, a sad, fragile and beautiful widow in 1981 Jerusalem, tries to protect herself and her two teenagers by moving to one of the new settlements. Her younger daughter grapples with a traumatic incident that occurs during her youth group's Bnei Akiva bonfire, while Rachel struggles to overcome her grief and get on with her life.

Israeli Film Academy - Best Film, Director,  
Screenplay, Supporting Actress, Editing  
Berlin International Film Festival 2004 - Special Mention,  
Don Quixote Award  
Chicago International Film Festival 2004 - FIPRESCI Prize

Screening: Sunday May 15, 7:30pm (Bloor)

Spotlight on Israeli Cinema is made possible by  
the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY

## **A CANTOR'S TALE**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**SENIORS FREE**

**USA 2004, 90 min**

**English**

**Director: Erik Greenberg Anjou**



Great cantors used to be adored celebrities, bigger than baseball players and movie stars. Colourful Jack Mendelson, a "chazzan," has the magic. He carries the line as keeper of the Hebrew prayer songs that accompany life's events. Mendelson returns to his old Brooklyn neighbourhood, which also spawned Alan Dershowitz, Jackie Mason and Steven Spielberg. A nostalgic and joyous exploration of one man's quest to pass on the authentic tradition. P.S. Dershowitz and Mason sing!

Guest: Director Erik Greenberg Anjou

Screening: Thursday May 12, 1pm (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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## **MIDNIGHT SHOW**

### **CHANNELS OF RAGE**

**ISRAEL 2003, 71 min**

**Hebrew, Arabic**

**Director: Anat Halachmi**



"Blood is spilled and it spills more blood..." The pounding and rapid-fire rhythms of rap and hip hop fill the screen as "Subliminal," the number one Israeli rapper, and fellow artist "MC Tamer," the first Arabic rapper, take viewers into the subculture of the Israeli rap scene. More than entertainment, their musical format illustrates their political rage about the battleground that defines their lives. Their mutual belief that hip hop can transcend regional tensions turns into street battles, with both languages articulating the passion and frustration of the younger generation. Shot over three years, this dynamic exploration of anger, competing nationalisms, and the desire for respect, reveals that there are 'hoods everywhere.

with

### **REX STEELE: NAZI SMASHER**

**USA 2004, 11 min**

**English**

**Director: Alexander Woo**

**Writers: Matt Peters, Alexander Woo, Dan Blank**

In this parodic animated newsreel, the evil Eval Schnitzler and his Nazis have occupied a remote Amazon location. Who you gonna

call? Lantern-jawed superhero Rex Steele, adept at smashing tyranny wherever it lurks, and his trusty sidekick, Miss Penny Thimble. In Chapter 13 of the series, will Rex be captured? And where are the first 12 chapters anyway?

Student Academy Award Nomination

Screening: Saturday May 14, Midnight (Bloor)

This screening generously sponsored by:



## **CINÉVARDAPHOTO:**

### **YDESSA, LES OURS ET ETC...**

**FRANCE 2004, 42 min**

**French, English**

**Director: Agnès Varda**



The famed French documentary pioneer has a new film, which she also narrates, about Toronto collector-curator-artist Ydessa Hendeles, daughter of survivors, and her extraordinary new art installation, the Teddy Bear Project. The show takes the notion of theme and turns it on its teddy-bear head, making it a much more challenging and rigorous exhibit—a narrative that explores world memories. Varda's artistic eye offers stunning footage. The second part in a triptych film.

with

**PROVIDER**

**CANADA 2005, 26 min**

**English**

**Director / Writer: Robert Swartz**

Marvin Swartz was always painting or sketching. Art wasn't something he did; it was something he was. He was also a father and a provider for his family. An ordinary man with an extraordinary passion.

Guest: Director Robert Swartz

Screening: Sunday May 15, 2pm (JCC)

**DAVID A. STEIN TRIBUTE**

**TICKETED FREE EVENT, 90 min**



A very special retrospective of the life and work of Toronto filmmaker David A. Stein, a close friend of the Festival's, who died tragically on December 12th at the age of 34. Featuring some of his finest short films, and the film Vanunu. With commentary from family, friends and colleagues. See page 8.

Event: Thursday May 12, 8:15pm (JCC)

**DON'T CALL IT HEIMWEH**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**USA 2004, 57 min**

**English, German**

**Director: Thomas Halaczinsky**



Heimweh is a German word encompassing nostalgia—a certain conflicted longing. Margot Friedlander, 82, journeys from the U.S., her home since 1946, to Germany, the country where she was born and which turned its back on her and many like her 60 years ago. Berlin evokes her painful "heimweh," but she feels she has to close the circle.

Guests: Director Thomas Halaczinsky and Margot Friedlander  
with

**AMERICA**

**ISRAEL 2004, 23 min**

**Hebrew**

**Director: Sigal Mordechai**

**Writer: Galit Mordechai**

Two middle-aged brothers have been planning a trip to America. When David finds out Ezra has a girlfriend, he becomes jealous and withdrawn.

Screening: Thursday May 12, 12pm (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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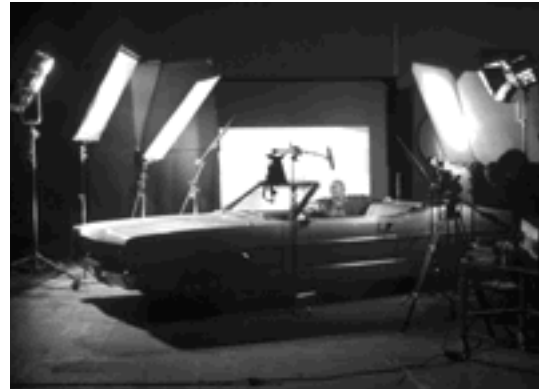
Official Newspaper Sponsor

**EDELWEISS PIRATES****TORONTO PREMIERE****GERMANY / SWITZERLAND / NETHERLANDS /****LUXEMBOURG 2004, 111 min****German****Director: Niko Brücher****Writers: Niko Brücher, Kiki von Glasow****Cast: Ivan Stebunov, Bela B. Felsenheimer, Jochen****Nickel, Anna Thalbach**

Based on largely unknown facts, this is the story of members of a resistant youth group called the Edelweiss Pirates who roamed the rubble of 1944 Cologne, sabotaging Nazis. The Pirates rescue fellow Pirate "Bomber" Hans and hide him, just before American troops arrive at the end of the war. Prowling the ruins, scavenging dead bodies, stealing food—this is their life. But Hans has a big plan—to blow up Gestapo headquarters. The Pirates were honoured by Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in 1984, but have yet to be recognized in Germany.

Guest invited.

Screening: Wednesday May 11, 7pm (Bloor)

This screening generously sponsored by  
LINDA and WILL HECHTER**EDGAR G. ULMER:  
THE MAN OFF-SCREEN****CANADIAN PREMIERE****USA / AUSTRIA 2004, 77 min****English****Director: Michael Palm**

King of the B movies in the '30s and '40s and best remembered for his mysterious 1945 film noir *Detour*, director Edgar Ulmer himself remained an enigma. An independent filmmaker before the term was used, Ulmer worked magic with impossibly low budgets and schedules. He influenced directors Peter Bogdanovich, John Landis, Wim Wenders, Roger Corman and Joe Dante, all of whom share their insights. In homage to the time and genre, the film employs the clever conceit of conducting interviews in prop cars in front of rear-screen projections. *Green Fields*, one of four movies he made in Yiddish, a language he had to learn from scratch, will be screened Sunday, May 8 at 11am. "I didn't even know I was a Jew," he said. His daughter, one of the producers, spent seven years archiving the work her father feared would never be preserved. Includes rare footage.

Guest: Arianné Ulmer Cipes, producer, and daughter of  
Edgar G. Ulmer

Screening: Sunday May 8, 4pm (JCC)

**FAMILY MATTERS****CANADIAN PREMIERE****ISRAEL 2004, 61 min****Hebrew, German****Director / Writer: David Noy**

Daphna is having her first baby. Nothing unusual about that. The father, Itamar, is also Israeli, and conception was by invitro fertilization. Nothing unusual about that. But Daphna and Itamar are not a couple. Itamar and his German lover, Kai, are gay and have been in relationship for 11 years. Having a child together creates a powerful bond and Kai becomes jealous. Surprising insight into the complicated constellation of a threesome who are more than friends and less than lovers.

with

**THE SHABBOS GOY****USA 2004, 27 min****English****Director: Rachel Pearl**

"To be without children is a terrible thing," says the Talmud. The Talmud says couples must procreate and by natural means. The wife suggests a substitute—a "Shabbos goy." Beautifully shot, lighthearted in tone, and deadly serious in content.

Screening: Sunday May 8, 6pm (JCC)

**FILM AS A SUBVERSIVE ART:  
AMOS VOGEL AND CINEMA 16****USA 2003, 56 min****English****Director: Paul Cronin**

Pioneer Amos Vogel came to New York from Vienna and founded the radical Cinema 16 movie club in 1947. Affected by such avant garde filmmakers as Maya Deren, he and wife Marcia excited a generation by introducing European film society ideas and programming a broad selection of forgotten classics, political and science documentaries, experimental films, and even Nazi propaganda. He showed films by Bunuel, Ozu, Varda, Cassavetes and Polanski not available anywhere else, and went on to found the New York Film Festival. Coincident with one of the most conservative historical moments in American history, Vogel created an exciting and challenging counterpart to mainstream cinema.

Festival screenings: Denver 2003, London 2003, Berlin 2004, Tribeca 2004, Jerusalem 2004, Vancouver 2004, Vienna 2004

with

**LE DÉCHAUSSÉ (THE UNSHOD MAN)****SENEGAL / FRANCE 2003, 32 min****French, Wolof****Director / Writer: Laurence Attali**

It all starts in a club, when the sax player dies suddenly. His wife tells his brother that he must



now take care of her, as Jewish law dictates. The brother, however, is not Jewish and his African custom teaches that he can never marry his brother's widow. Surprising and challenging discoveries are in store during a special ceremony. Redolent and elegaic, punctuated by both music and silences.

Beaumarchais Prize for screenplay; Jury Prize Istanbul;  
Music Prize Barcelona; Music Prize Rome;  
Prize of Dialog between People, Dakar

Screening: Wednesday May 11, 6pm (JCC)

## **FINDING ELEAZAR**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**USA 2004, 57 min**

**English, French**

**Director: Paula Heil Fisher**



La Juive, the 19th century French opera, languished in obscurity from 1936, when the Nazis banned it, until 1999. The Vienna State Opera restaged the Caruso vehicle with pre-eminent American tenor Neil Shicoff as Eleazar, a 15th-century Jewish goldsmith. The film within a film, as well as the opera, moves audiences to think about universal issues of intolerance. Footage of Hollywood moviemaker Sidney Lumet as he directs a video of the magnificent key aria.

Screened with *Rachel* by Lumet. See below.

with

## **RACHEL, QUAND DU SEIGNEUR**

**2004, 10 min**

**English, French**

**Director: Sidney Lumet**

Famed Hollywood director Sidney Lumet translates to video the glorious words and music of the aria from *La Juive* that made Caruso famous. Pre-eminent American tenor Neil Shicoff sings the anguished *Quand du seigneur* from the French opera.

Screening: Thursday May 12, 4pm (JCC)

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## **GLOOMY SUNDAY**

**GERMANY / HUNGARY 1999, 110 min**

**German, English, Hungarian**

**Director: Rolf Schübel**

**Writers: Rolf Schübel, Ruth Toma**

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



It's back by popular demand! Our audiences have asked to see it again and so here it is. *Gloomy Sunday* is the name of a notorious Hungarian "suicide hymnsong" composed in 1935, a haunting melody full of hopelessness and despair. When three men fall in love with the same woman, the song will link them far beyond the popular Budapest café where they

first meet. Potent mix of drama and humour, the film is becoming a TJFF perennial.

Screening: Thursday May 12, 2pm (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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## **GO FOR ZUCKER: AN UNORTHODOX COMEDY (Alles auf Zucker!)**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**GERMANY 2004, 91 min**

**German**

**Director: Dani Levy**

**Cast: Henry Hübchen, Hannelore Elsner, Udo Samel**



Jacky Zuckermann, a middle-aged reprobate in Berlin, drinks, gambles, and gets in bar fights. His wife kicks him out. His son and daughter are fed up with his irresponsible ways. When his mother dies in Frankfurt, his estranged Orthodox brother comes with his family to bury her in Berlin. Her will specifies that the family must sit shiva together and reconcile in order to receive her inheritance. How can he attend the funeral, sit shiva, play pool and fool his family all at once? He can try. But it won't be pretty. Black comedy, Germany's first Jewish comedy, and a box-office smash.

Screening: Wednesday May 11, 5pm (Bloor)

## **FRENCH SOIRÉE LE GRAND RÔLE**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**FRANCE 2004, 86 min**

**French**

**Director: Steve Suissa**

**Writers: Steve Suissa, Daniel Goldenberg (book),  
Daniel Cohen, Sophie Tepper**

**Cast: Stéphane Freiss, Bérénice Béjo, Peter Coyote**



In a Parisian milieu where anti-Semitic remarks are dropped as casually as gum wrappers, aspiring Parisian actor Maurice Kurtz (Stéphane Freiss) is elated to have snared the movie role of Shylock in a film by famous American director Rudolph Grishenber (Peter Coyote). It's the role of a lifetime. But before Maurice can even begin rehearsals, he loses the role and doesn't tell his wife (Bérénice Béjo). Is it a sin to lie for love? This story in the O. Henry tradition of what lovers will do for and to each other has much to say about acting as a survival technique.

with

**LA CIRCONCISION (CIRCUMCISION)**

FRANCE 2004, 27 min

French, Hebrew, English

Director: Laurent Mareschal

They are young art students in love in Strasbourg. He, French, she, Israeli. They move to Jerusalem, then to Tel Aviv, then Paris, then back to Israel, then back to France. Where is home?

Screening: Tuesday May 10, 7:15pm (Bloor)

**GRAY MATTER**

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA 2004, 59 min

English, German

Director: Joe Berlinger



The remains of handicapped children, experimented on and murdered at the mental hospital Spiegelgrund in Vienna during the Nazi era, were finally buried in a moving 2002 public ceremony. Deemed unworthy to live, they endured unimaginable torture. Dr. Heinrich Gross, who oversaw the atrocities, is alive and has eluded justice. This powerful film pays tribute to the little victims, and uncovers another crooked piece of the Nazi puzzle in Austria. Truly disturbing story of medical sadism. Throughout are the haunted and haunting eyes of the photographed children.

Screening: Sunday May 15, 11am (Bloor)

**GREEN FIELDS (GRINE FELDER)**

USA 1937, 99 min

Yiddish

Directors: Jacob Ben-Amir, Edgar G. Ulmer

Writer: Peretz Hirschbein

Cast: Michael Goldstein, Helen Beverley,

Izidor Casher, Anna Appel



One of four Yiddish movies made by B-movie king Edgar G. Ulmer, this 1937 production tells a charming tale of a wandering yeshiva student welcomed by a farm family as a teacher for their children as well as a status symbol. Interesting look at ideas in play at the time of formal education vs. street smarts or, in this case, farm smarts. This newly restored print presented by the National Center for Jewish Film highlights Ulmer's gorgeous black-and-white cinematography. Over-the-top melodrama in which all's well that ends well. The Festival also presents the documentary Edgar G. Ulmer: The Man Off-Screen on Sunday, May 8 at 4pm (JCC). Dedicated to the memory of Jessie Haberfeld Freedman and Louis Freedman.

Guest: Arianné Cipes Ulmer, producer, and daughter of Edgar Ulmer. Photo courtesy of NCJF.

with

**THE DEVIL AND MANNY SCHMECKSTEIN**

USA 2004, 6 min

English

Director / Writer: Jim Goodman

Voices: Dick Rodstein

In this delightfully dark claymation short, an elderly stand-up comic passes away at the microphone. It wouldn't be the first time a comic died onstage, but then the Devil consigns him to Hell for not getting a single laugh since 1968.

Screening: Sunday May 8, 11am (Mother's Day) (Bloor)

## HENRY'S DREAM

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**ISRAEL 2004, 106 min**

**Hebrew**

**Director /Writer: Eitan Green**

**Cast: Menashe Noy, Yonatan Hashiloni, Tammar Levi Eldar**



Henry Atias, the frustrated 44-year-old manager of a film school equipment storeroom, dreams of making his own film. It's now or never. A widower whose wife died in a tragic car crash, Henry casts their teenage son Ami (Yonatan Hashiloni), who has a habit of making movie sound effects, as the depressed boy in the mystery thriller. This film-within-a-film examines the nature of an individual life story. Just as father and son are discovering themselves and each other, and in the middle of shooting, the school recalls the camera. A moving account of a man whose life's project might slip away and a boy who makes noises, trying to be heard.

Screening: Tuesday May 10, 1pm (Bloor)

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## THE HUNGARIAN SERVANT (IL SERVO UNGHERESE)

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**ITALY 2003, 108 min**

**Italian**

**Director: Giorgio Molteni**

**Writer: Massimo Piesco**

**Cast: Tomas Arana, Chiara Conti, Edoardo Sala**



The casual cruelty of the German concentration camp Major is as stunning as the vacuousness of his beautiful wife. When the Major orders two Expressionist paintings destroyed, Miklos, an educated Hungarian Jew whom they've made their servant, explains their worth. A haunting opera score underscores the shocking juxtaposition of beauty and brutality. Fascinating treatment of the contrast between the need for order, control and repression, and the artistic instincts and yearning for freedom that make us human.

Adult themes, violence, nudity.

Screening: Wednesday May 11, 3pm (Bloor)

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**MIDNIGHT SHOW**  
**JERICO'S ECHO:**  
**PUNK ROCK IN THE HOLY LAND**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**ISRAEL / USA 2004, 75 min**

**English, Hebrew**

**Director: Elizabeth Nord**



Mohawk haircuts, pounding rhythms, fists flying. Like the country, the punk rock music scene in Israel is passionately political. Its ethos gains new relevance when band members' choices are often between picking up a guitar or a gun. A look through the eyes of some young Israelis who yearn for an end to war, so they can live out their dreams. An ultimately positive message.

Some coarse language.

Guest: Director Elizabeth Nord

with

**JEW JUBE LIVES**

**CANADA 2004, 6 min**

**English**

**Director: Michael Davidson**

In this mini-mockumentary, Shmuley Zeidelman, better known as Jew Jube Jehovah, is an adored Orthodox rap star on a peace mission with his Messiah Tour. His mom, Esther "Shekky" Zeidelman (Luba Goy), his rabbi from Beth Shpilkus synagogue, and his legions of fans proclaim him "way cooler than Eminem."

Screening: Saturday May 7, Midnight (Bloor)

This screening generously sponsored by:



**JEWS OF IRAN**

**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**

**NETHERLANDS 2004, 60 min**

**Farsi, Hebrew**

**Director: Ramin Farahani**



Jews have inhabited Iran for 2,700 years. Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the number of Jews living in Iran has shrunk from 100,000 to 20,000. This film subtly illuminates the situation of Jews in three Iranian cities. One young woman has reluctantly decided to leave because of everyday insults by her teachers and classmates. What will she miss about her homeland? "Everything," she says, sadly, "Even the bumps on the road." An architecture professor, the owner of the only Jewish music store in Iran, a woman who runs the only Jewish bathhouse...these are some of the few keeping up the traditions, despite the difficulties.

Guest: Director Ramin Farahani

Screening: Monday May 9, 4pm (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by



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**JONATHAN POLLARD:  
AMERICAN FALL GUY****TICKETED FREE SCREENING****USA, 50 min****English****Director: David A. Stein**

This documentary about convicted American spy Jonathan Pollard, currently serving a life sentence for passing secrets to Israel, was the last film of Toronto director David A. Stein. A dear friend and co-worker of the Festival's, Stein passed away on December 12 at the age of 34. Includes footage of David shooting the film in Israel. See David A. Stein Tribute, Thursday, May 12, 8:15pm, page 8.

Guest: Simcha Jacobovici of Associated Producers Ltd., and producer/executive producer of Pollard, will be present for a Q&A on how the film was completed after David's death.

Screening: Sunday May 15, 3pm (Bloor)

**JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM****CANADIAN PREMIERE****BULGARIA / GERMANY 2003, 112 min****Bulgarian, German****Director: Ivan Nichev****Writer: Yurii Dachev**

**Cast: Elena Petrova, Alexander Morfov, Vassili Vassiliev Zueka**



Based on true events, this charming story illuminates how Bulgaria saved all its 50,000 citizens

of Jewish origin. In 1940, two orphaned children are spotted at a train station by the beautiful Zara, member of an itinerant magic troupe that plays genteelly seedy hotels. When the youngsters, now part of the act, are in danger of being sent back to Germany, suddenly the only important magic is making them disappear. Now you see them, now you don't. Revealing slice of bourgeois Bulgarian life and society during the Hitler era.

with

**PIGEON****CANADA 2004, 11 min****English****Director / Writer: Anthony Green**

In 1944 Nazi-occupied France, a middle-aged man (Michael Lerner) with a false passport nervously awaits a train. As he reads his newspaper, he tosses a few crumbs from his sandwich to a pigeon at his feet. On the train, he sits near a worried-looking woman (Wendy Crewson) in a fur-collared coat. As guards approach, checking papers, he finds his passport gone. Panic. What can he do? Based on the real life events of one Susi Penzias.

Pigeon will also be seen in the Local Filmmakers Showcase, Sunday, May 8.

Screening: Friday May 13, 3pm (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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**KING OF THE CORNER****CANADIAN PREMIERE****USA 2005, 93 min****English****Director: Peter Riegert****Writers: Gerald Shapiro, Peter Riegert****Cast: Peter Riegert, Eli Wallach, Isabella Rossellini, Ashley Johnson, Rita Moreno, Eric Bogosian, Beverly D'Angelo, Dominic Chianese, Harris Yulin**

Leo (Peter Riegert), a middle-aged New York advertising executive, has tried to be a decent employee, husband and father. Now everything seems to be falling apart. His rambunctious elderly father is in a nursing home far away. His daughter's going out with a bum. His boss has hired a brash young kid who's stealing his ideas. Has Leo been a bad Jew? Based on the book *Bad Jews and Other Stories* by co-screenwriter Gerald Shapiro. Delightfully outrageous turn by Eli Wallach as Leo's father, and a stellar cast.

Best Actor – Newport Film Festival

Best First Feature – Marco Island Film Festival

Official Selection – Boston, Denver, Lake Placid, Mill Valley, Palm Beach, Philadelphia, Santa Fe/Taos, Wisconsin, Woodstock

Director invited.

Screening: Sunday May 15, 1pm (Bloor)

This screening generously sponsored by:

Cranston, Gaskin, O'Reilly & Vernon  
Investment Counsel**THE LAST JEWS OF BAGHDAD****USA 2005, 104 min****English****Directors: Carole Basri, Adriana Davis, Bryan Durr**

Iraq has been home to a thriving Jewish community since 586 B.C.E. Today there are only 22 Jews in all Iraq. Many were saved by Muslims and Kurds from marauding bands of rapists and murderers in 1941 and escaped to other countries. Severely restrictive laws against Jews and their freedom of movement continued well in the '70s with Saddam Hussein. Will the exiles ever return?

Guest: Director Carole Basri. Photo: D-Squared Media.

Screening: Tuesday May 10, 8:15pm (JCC)

**LOCAL FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE****TICKETED FREE SCREENING, 90 min**

A series of short films in a variety of genres by up-and-coming Toronto-area filmmakers. The directors will be present for informal Q & A.

**ELLIOT SMELLIOT****CANADA 2004, 23 min****English****Director: Anita Doron**

Elliot is 12 and brilliant. Kate is 20 and flighty. Elliot is Kate's chemistry tutor. But does that mean they can't be in love? Not in Elliot's



mind. A heartbreaking boy's fantasy.

Official Selection: Toronto International Film Festival,  
Atlantic Film Festival, Cinefest.

### **FLORIDA: A SNOWBIRDS PARADISE?**

**CANADA 2002, 5 min**

English

Director: Jeffrey P. Nesker

Why do Snowbirds go to Florida? The weather, of course. A funny little look at northerners who fly south for the winter. Some hilarious comments, as well as interesting video techniques, including, appropriately, video "snow."

### **THE HUMAN KAZOO**

**CANADA 2004, 10 min**

English

Director: Fabrizio Filippo

Writers: Fabrizio Filippo, Adam Till, Karen Walton

One of Canada's hottest new stars, Fabrizio Filippo, brings us this over-the-top gem. Using silent movie conventions married to action techniques, he takes viewers inside the mind of Anthony, a superannuated writer. It's not a pretty place. Filippo takes a filmic water-gun and playfully squirts us while making us think. An impressive debut.

### **PIGEON**

**CANADA 2004, 11 min**

English

Director / Writer: Anthony Green

Pigeon will also be screened with Journey to Jerusalem. See page 28 for details.

### **SOB STORY**

**CANADA 2004, 8 min**

English

Director: Michael Slavens

Marty's a callow, self-absorbed loser in love, with an adolescent attachment to his baseball

card collection. When his mother calls to tell him his grandmother died, his date stays only to offer sympathy. Now he has to give a eulogy for the old bat. Can he do it?

Screening: Sunday May 8, 12pm (Mother's Day) (JCC)

## **LOST EMBRACE (EL ABRAZO PARTIDO)**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**ARGENTINA / FRANCE / ITALY /**

**SPAIN 2004, 96 min**

Spanish, Korean, Lithuanian, English

Director: Daniel Burman

Writers: Daniel Burman, Marcelo Birmajer

Cast: Daniel Hendler, Adriana Aizenberg, Jorge D'Elia, Sergio Boris



In a community of shopkeepers in Buenos Aires are Italians, Argentinian Jews, Koreans, Peruvians, Lithuanians—a U.N. of merchants. With camera movements as quirky and frenetic as the eclectic cast of characters, full of zooms and tracking shots, the amusing story follows Ariel, an artist who reluctantly works in his mother's lingerie shop. Ariel wants to go to Europe and become Polish like his grandmother. Questions and decisions for a young man looking for his past, his present and his future all at once. Argentina's official 2004 selection for the Oscars® for Best Foreign Language Film.

with

**CHRIST IN THE CITY****USA 2004, 25 min****English****Director / Writer: Yitz Brilliant**

In this hilarious but pointed satire, Jesus returns to Earth—New York City, specifically. As he talks on his cellphone to the angel Gabriel, Gabe warns him to be back in Heaven in time for Shabbos. But Jesus drops by a movie theatre to check out *The Passion of the Christ*, and loses track of time. His Dad's gonna kill him.

Screening: Thursday May 12, 7:00pm (Bloor)

**FRENCH SOIRÉE**
**MAN IS A WOMAN  
(L'HOMME EST UNE FEMME  
COMME LES AUTRES...)**
**FRANCE 1998, 96 min****French****Director: Jean-Jacques Zilbermann****Writers: Gilles Taurand, Jean-Jacques Zilbermann****Cast: Antoine de Caunes, Elsa Zylberstein**

Klezmer clarinetist Simon is living the gay life in Páree. His uncle offers him his vast fortune if he'll just marry a woman and carry on the family name. At his cousin's wedding, Simon meets Rosalie, a beautiful, devout, Hasidic singer of secular Yiddish songs. An unlikely match to be sure. The inevitable complications are at once lighthearted and provocative,

while exploring issues of family, society and the vagaries of the sexual continuum. Zylberstein is luminous, as usual.

Screening: Tuesday May 10, 9:45 pm (Bloor)

**THE MAN WHO LOVED HAUGESUND****TORONTO PREMIERE****NORWAY 2003, 60 min****Norwegian****Directors: Jon Haukeland, Tore Vollen**

You could recognize his suits by the perfection of their details. The clothing king of Norway, Moritz Rabinowitz, came from Poland in 1911, the only Jew in the coastal fishing city of Haugesund, and built an empire from nothing. An activist against Hitler, this ambitious entrepreneur eventually employed some 3000 in his modern enterprise. What will the townspeople do when the Gestapo comes calling for the Jewish tailor? Riveting as a drama.

with

**AIMÉE S... IMPRISONED IN 1945****(AIMÉE S...EMPRISONÉE EN 1945)****SWITZERLAND 2004, 13 min****French, English****Director: Daniel Küenzi**

During the war, travel was relatively free between France and Switzerland. One woman who smuggled many children across the border

is still active today.

Screening: Wednesday May 11, 12pm (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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## METALLIC BLUES

Co-Presentation with ReelWorld Film Festival

ISRAEL / CANADA / GERMANY 2004, 89 min

Hebrew, English, German

Writer / Director: Danny Verete

Cast: Moshe Ivgy, Avi Kushnir



Israeli autobody dealer Shmuel Goldberg sees a once-in-a-lifetime chance to make a huge profit when he buys a flashy vintage '85 Lincoln Continental limo for a song. Awestruck by its metallic blue-and-silver beauty, his partner Sisso whispers, "It's not just a car. It's America!" even though it has Québec licence plates. Full of cheerful naïveté, the two start "goin' down the road" to sell the car in Germany. After being detained and searched by German customs police, the excitable Shmuel experiences not only unwanted flashbacks but also unanticipated problems with dumping the vehicle. A poignant and provocative road movie with elements of culture clash and inextricable ties between two countries.

with

## HIDE & SEEK

ISRAEL 2004, 15 min

Hebrew

Director: Tamir Goren

Michael seems a normal schoolboy, trying to fit in. It soon becomes clear that he has special powers. His mother warns him not to show and tell. A lesson in life, love and levitation.

Screening: Monday May 9, 3pm (Bloor)

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## MOMENTS: ISRAEL 2004 - THE FACE OF THE NATION

TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2004, 52 min

Hebrew



Fourteen Israeli filmmakers present three-minute vignettes in this compilation film. Selected from 150 submissions are: "Wanted" by Regev Contes, "Common Language" by Noa Ben-Hagai, "Ringtones" by Dov Gil-Har, "On the Face" by Jachin Hirsch, "Cover-Up Story" by Yoni Zigler, "An Israeli in Berlin" by Ayelet Bargur, "The Value of Values" by Hani Mor-Silverman and Maya Arad, "Silence" by Suha Arraf, "Politically Correct" by Rona Tamir,

"Condensed" by Zvulun Moshiasvili, "Not Just Another Suicide Bombing" by Amit Drori, "Her Face" by Noam Meshulam, "Shameless" by Asaf Shafir and Michael Klein, and "Meet Michael Oppenheim" by Roni Abulafia.

with

### **CHRONICLE OF A JERUSALEM COURTYARD**

**ISRAEL 2003, 28 min**

**Hebrew, German**

**Directors: Tom Barkai, Tsvika Nevo**

Neighbours are neighbours. They bond. They fight. They gossip. A diverse group finds ways to live together in a 120-year-old neighbourhood in the centre of Jerusalem. A cinematic gem.

Screening: Tuesday May 10, 12pm (Bloor)

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### **NINA'S TRAGEDIES**

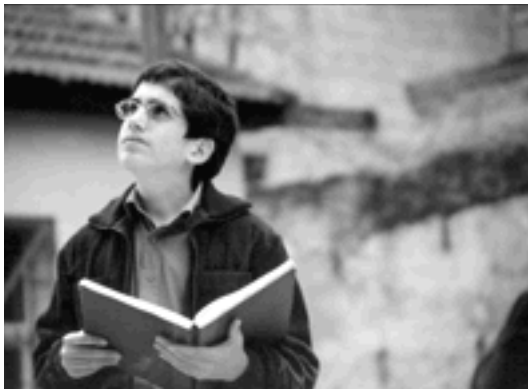
**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**ISRAEL 2003, 107 min**

**Hebrew**

**Director / Writer: Savi Gabizon**

**Cast: Ayelet Zorer, Yoram Hatav, Alon Aboutbout, Aviv Elkabbez**



Fourteen-year-old Nadav, neglected by his divorced parents and feeling a disappointment

to his father, grapples with adult issues and gets into more trouble than he can handle. He's fallen in adolescent love with his beautiful, sad, ethereal Aunt Nina. He spends his time spying on her and writing about her in his journal. When her life takes a tragic turn, Nadav sees his chance to comfort her. Bad timing haunts her life. And perhaps Nadav's as well. A serio-comic look at love, passion and the healing power of grief.

Israeli Film Academy - Best Picture, Best Director, Best Screenplay, plus eight others  
Jerusalem Film Festival - Best Film, Best Screenplay, Best Actress

Screening: Monday May 9, 1pm (Bloor)

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### **NOT IN MY NAME**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**CANADA 2005, 107 min**

**English, Hebrew**

**Director: Igal Hecht**



Can a North American Jew criticize Israel? Are Israelis ready to challenge the occupation? This extensive exploration of left and right political activism is bound to provoke. Some progressive Jews call on Israel to stop speaking

in their name. Complexities and contradictions. Jews against Jews. Families divided. Interspersed is disturbing footage of the aftermaths of bombings. It may make you angry. It may make you think.

**WARNING:** graphic video, some coarse language

Guest: Director Igal Hecht

Screening: Friday May 13, 1pm (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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## **RUSSIAN EVENING ODESSA ODESSA**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**FRANCE / ISRAEL 2005, 97 min**

**Russian, English**

**Director: Michale Boganim**



They say "Odessan" is a nationality. Whether in Brighton Beach, New York, or Jerusalem's Little Odessa, exiles still see Odessa, pearl of the Black Sea, in their dreams and call it home. They want to go back to the ancient city just to breathe the air. They walk, sit, play chess, sing songs, and toast the Odessa that raised them like a mother. Others stayed in Israel, many in Little Odessa. An evocative cinematic poem.

Screening: Monday May 9, 6pm (JCC)

## **ONE SHOT**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**ISRAEL 2004, 60 min**

**Hebrew**

**Director: Nurit Kedar**



With the camera peering down the barrel of a rifle, the documentary filmmakers watch and wait with snipers of the Israeli Defence Forces. Both are stalking and shooting, their scopes aimed at "targets." These are trained assassins bolstered by youth, arrogance and a constant fear of death. Is it war or coldblooded murder? This is the first time snipers have been given permission to be interviewed for a film. Thoughtful and sometimes chilling.

Guest invited.

with

## **AFTERSHOCK**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**ISRAEL 2004, 25 min**

**Hebrew**

**Director: Yariv Horowitz**

A child of the '73 Yom Kippur war, the filmmaker was assigned as a military photographer to shoot a morale-boosting propaganda film. It displeased his superiors and was censored. Ten years later, he returns to chronicle his former comrades' disillusionment with war.

Screening: Thursday May 12, 5pm (Bloor)

**OR (MON TRÉSOR)****TORONTO PREMIERE****ISRAEL / FRANCE 2004, 95 min****Hebrew****Director: Keren Yedaya****Writers: Keren Yedaya, Sari Ezouz****Cast: Ronit Elkabetz, Dana Ivgy**

Her name is Or (Dana Ivgy) and she is indeed a light in her mother's life, the meaning of her name in Hebrew. A 16-year-old high-school student with a part-time dishwashing job in a restaurant, Or tries to prevent her mother (Ronit Elkabetz) from falling back into prostitution. But Ruthie would rather spend her nights soliciting than her days cleaning someone else's house for low wages. Is it like-mother-like daughter or will Or be able to escape a legacy of life on the street? The unflinching camera misses nothing.

Cannes Film Festival – Caméra d'or

Screening: Saturday May 14, 9:30 pm (Bloor)

Spotlight on Israeli Cinema is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY

**RUSSIAN EVENING  
PAPER SNOW****TORONTO PREMIERE****ISRAEL 2004, 104 min****Hebrew****Directors: Lina & Slava Chaplin****Writers: Edna Mazia, Alona Kimhi****Cast: Ivgenia Dodina, Zuk Berkman**

In 1933 in the young city of Tel Aviv, a new Hebrew culture flourishes and the cafés buzz with Bohemian life. Famously beautiful aging actress Hana Rovina is in love with young married poet, playwright and member of the HaBima theatre co-op, Alexander Penn. Based on their true tempestuous romance, this intensely poetic and emotional film is distinctively shot in subtle golds and sepias, and in faux cinéma vérité style, with a roving camera and some scenes intentionally out of focus—as through a glass darkly. It speaks to issues of artists and others with no home, longing for the comforting snows of their Russian youth.

Screening: Monday May 9, 8:15pm (JCC)

Spotlight on Israeli Cinema is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY

## **PERLA: THE LAST OF THE SEVEN DWARFS**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**USA 2005, 49 min**

**Romanian, Hebrew**

**Director: Debbie Brukman**



Once upon a time, in northern Romania, where legend has it that giants once roamed the earth, a Jewish dwarf named Ovitz was born and had ten children, seven of them dwarves. They were worldly and artistic, these Orthodox dwarves, and formed a wildly popular theatre group, playing huge halls. They were so famous they were exempt from paying taxes. Then the Nazis came and nobody was happy any more. What if the seven dwarves were rounded up and taken to Nazi doctor Josef Mengele? Sounds fantastical. Perla, the last of the seven dwarves, tells the remarkable story. Narrated by Tovah Feldshuh.

Guest: Director Debbie Brukman

Screening: Sunday May 8, 1:30 pm (Mother's Day) (Bloor)

This screening generously sponsored by:

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## **RECUERDOS**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**MEXICO 2003, 90 min**

**Spanish, Polish**

**Director: José Antonio Alonso Espinoza**



Filmmaker Luis Frank, born in poverty in Lithuania, lived a life of many migrations and immigrations, finally settling in Mexico. His family arrived in Spain during the Civil War, where he made documentaries about the struggle of the people until Franco's dictatorship forced him to leave. In France he was appointed director of a settlement for exiled Spanish children, which then filled with war orphans and was closed by Nazis. A stunningly photographed film about lives ruptured and memories captured, with Frank's own footage.

Screening: Friday May 13, 2pm (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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## SENTENCED TO MARRIAGE (MEKUDESHET)

ISRAEL 2004, 65 min

Hebrew

Director: Anat Zuria



In Israel there is no separation between religion and the state, and no possibility of civil marriage or divorce, leaving the wife in limbo as an "aguna," a woman of no status. The Halachic rulings (Jewish law), going back to Moses, state that a man can marry as many women as he wants, while a woman remains bound. This film explores the Rabbinical Court process, through the cases of three women waiting years to get the "get."

The film will be repeated with a panel discussion, Sunday, May 15, 12pm at the AI Green Theatre. Panelists include producer Amit Breuer, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, and lawyer John Syrtash.

Jerusalem Film Festival 2004 - Best Documentary

Guest: Producer Amit Breuer, Guest Curator

with

## KEEP NOT SILENT

ISRAEL 2004, 52 min

English, Hebrew

Director: Ilil Alexander



They're referred to as "Ortho-Dykes"—Orthodox Jewish women who, married or not, are lesbians or "mesolelot". The rabbi's advice to pray and work on their "weakness" or to choose a lone religious path offers no leeway. The practice, however, is not considered adultery, and it would be a worse sin for a woman not to cover her hair. Revealing insight into a lifestyle that has no place in the community.

Israeli Film Academy - Best Documentary

Tel Aviv International Documentary Film Festival -

Best First Feature Documentary

International Women's film Festival - Best Film

Photo: Courtesy of Women Make Movies

Screening: Monday May 9, 5pm (Bloor)

This screening co-presented with:



## **SHALOM, JORDAN.**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**ISRAEL 2004, 43 min**

**Hebrew, Arabic**

**Director: Dov Gil-Har**



The director of last year's Opening Night film, *Behind Enemy Lines*, as well as his 2001 entry, *Sleeping with the Enemy*, Dov Gil-Har brings his latest. A decade after the Israeli-Jordanian peace accord, he reveals secret negotiations, meetings, disguises and intrigue that led to it. Exclusive interviews with three former heads of the Mossad, a Prime Minister, statesmen, negotiators, experts and journalists, some speaking publicly for the first time.

with

## **THE MESSIAH**

**ISRAEL 2004, 6 min**

**Arabic, Hebrew, English**

**Director: Guy Dimenstein**

What if the Messiah were to appear? Well, in this film he does, riding a donkey up to a Palestinian roadblock. They think he's escaped from a mental hospital. When the TV cameras show up, it can only get worse.

also with

## **WEST BANK STORY**

**USA 2004, 22 min**

**Director: Ari Sandel**

See page 9, Opening Night

Screening: Thursday May 12, 3pm (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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## **SHYLOCK**

**TICKETED FREE SCREENING**

**CANADA 1999, 57 min**

**English, German, Hebrew, Yiddish**

**Director / Writer: Pierre Lasry**



In a year when the new Hollywood production of *The Merchant of Venice* is focusing renewed attention on Shylock, this excellent NFB film examines the nature of Shakespeare's most controversial character. Stills and rare footage of portrayals through the centuries including those by Charles Macklin, Edmund Kean, Henry Irving, Orson Welles, Laurence Olivier and Dustin Hoffman. The character still fascinates and divides. Narrated by Marilyn Lightstone.

Guest invited.

Screening: Monday May 9, 12pm (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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**SISTER ROSE'S PASSION****USA 2004, 39 min****English****Director: Oren Jacoby**

"The Jews are the people who killed Jesus." This recurring theme in Catholic teaching texts was shot down by remarkable American nun Sister Rose Thering. Her doctoral research formed the basis of the Vatican Council's 1965 declaration that Catholics could no longer blame Jews for the death of Christ. She reasoned simply, "If we love Jesus, who was Jewish, why don't we love his people?" Her findings caused a firestorm of criticism and soul-searching within the church. Now in her late 80s and living in a Jewish Center in New Jersey, Sister Rose remains a faithful, feisty and critical Catholic. A story of speaking up and doing the right thing—no matter what.

Academy Award Nomination 2005 - Best Feature Documentary  
with

**POUMY****FRANCE 2004, 30 min****French****Director: Sam Ball**

"There were hundreds of thousands like me," she says matter-of-factly. But the grande dame nicknamed Poumy, born into fine Jewish society in Strasbourg, was one of a kind. When the Second World War came, she hid her children

in the Puritan pottery-making town of Dieulefit in southeast France, where many Jews were hidden. Poumy ran mission after dangerous mission for the Resistance. Fascinating portrait of a quietly courageous life.

Guest: Producer Marian Scheuer Sofaer

Screening: Sunday May 8, 5pm (Mother's Day) (Bloor)

This screening generously sponsored by:

**STALIN'S LAST PURGE****WORLD PREMIERE****ISRAEL 2005, 55 min****English, Russian, Yiddish****Director / Writer: Alan Rosenthal**

In 1948 the most famous Jew in Russia was found dead, face-down on a deserted road in Minsk, Belarus. He was Solomon Mikhoels, director of the Moscow Jewish National Theatre he founded in 1929 and whose powerful Yiddish productions were a focus of Jewish life. This major figure in Soviet culture was also the toast of New York. Seen as a threat especially when he spoke to his wildly enthusiastic theatre audiences in support of a Jewish state, Mikhoels was targeted as part of Stalin's fatal assault on Soviet Jewry. Artists, writers and doctors were rounded up, shot, tortured, sent to work in mines, and separated from families as traitors

and enemies of Stalin's state.

Guest: Director / Writer Alan Rosenthal

Screening: Sunday May 8, 3pm (Bloor)

## **TO TAKE A WIFE (VE'LAKHTA LEHE ISHA, PRENDRE FEMME)**

**ISRAEL / FRANCE 2004, 99 min**

**Hebrew**

**Directors / Writers: Ronit Elkabetz, Shlomi Elkabetz**

**Cast: Ronit Elkabetz, Simon Abkarian, Gilbert Melki**



If he doesn't hit you, drink, gamble or fool around, what's the problem? In 1979 Haifa, a Sephardic Moroccan couple—a wife (the incomparable Ronit Elkabetz) and her husband of 20 years—struggle with a chaotic family life built on an unhappy marriage. He prays. She cries. A domestic emotional tragedy accompanied by exquisite music and sound counterpoint. Unrelenting examination of a marital meltdown.

Screening: Wednesday May 11, 9:30pm (Bloor)

Repeat screening: Friday May 13, 12pm (JCC)

**ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY - YOM HA'ATZMAUT**

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## **TURN LEFT AT THE END OF THE WORLD (SOF HA'OLAM SMOLA)**

**ISRAEL 2004, 108 min**

**Hebrew, French, English**

**Director: Avi Nesher**

**Writers: Sara Eden, Avi Nesher**



In the summer of '68, in a small desert town, two teenage girls meet and become best friends. When French, Indian and Moroccan families—all new Israelis—are thrown together in a settlement, cultural prejudices arise in this romantic coming-of-age comedy. It's an amusing multicultural, multilingual dance in which everybody steps on everybody else's toes. Israeli box-office smash.

Taormina Film Festival 2004 - Grand Prix Audience Award

Screening: Sunday May 8, 8:15pm (Mother's Day) (JCC)

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## **UNDER STRANGE SKIES**

**PORTUGAL 2002, 57 min**

**Portuguese, German, English**

**Director: Daniel Blaufuks**

Through his grandfather's diaries and others' letters, some quietly narrated by actor Bruno Ganz, the filmmaker brings this heretofore untold story of Jewish German heritage steeped in Portuguese daily life, a combination found

nowhere else in the world. Portugal was the only free and neutral harbour in Europe during World War II, accepting some 30-50,000 Jews. Prohibited from working, refugees waited in Lisbon for transit papers and visas...and waited...and waited. Effective use of stillness and silences, allowing pristine photos to show the journey from refugee to immigrant, resulting in exile from country and culture. From a book by Portuguese immigrant Ilse Losa.

Guest: Director Daniel Blaufuks

with

## **JAI**

**MEXICO 2004, 9 min**

**Spanish**

**Director: Ariel Zylbersztejn**

When little Ilana asks her grandmother about the meaning of the number on her arm, grandmother explains that the numbers add up to 18, Jai, meaning "life" in Hebrew.

Screening: Thursday May 12, 6pm (JCC)

## **UNDER WATER (ABBA SHAHOR LAVAN)**

**TORONTO PREMIERE**

**ISRAEL 2002, 91 min**

**Hebrew**

**Director: Eitan Londner**

**Writers: Eitan Londner, Hagai Tevet**

**Cast: Dan Toren, Hila Alpert, Nurit Banai-Koren, Dana Grutzky, Nimrod Reshef, Agam Rodberg**



While fourteen-year-old Michal is a talented member of her school's swim team, she sometimes feels as though she's drowning at home. Her father became Orthodox and left the family. Her coach is pushing her. Swimming is a lot like life: you have to be psychologically prepared. But it's hard to breathe when you're under water.

Screening: Friday May 13, 4pm (JCC)

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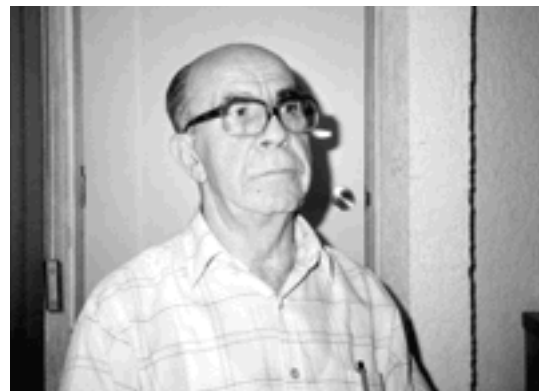
## **WAGNER'S CONFESSION**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**GERMANY 2001, 43 min**

**German, French**

**Director: Egmont R. Koch**



In the Jewish cemetery in Caracas, Venezuela, a Nazi murderer is buried. Günter Reinemer, a member of Hitler's SS who shot 110 Jews in Treblinka, lived as a Jew for years before being discovered. He had led a checkered life of spying for the CIA, committing bigamy, living with and leaving several other women, moving from country to country, and rising in the engineering profession. Incredible story of a cold-blooded poseur.

with

## **DOOR TO DOOR**

**ISRAEL 2004, 30 min**

**Hebrew**

**Director: Shunit Aharoni**

**Writer: Gudis Schneider, Eyal Zusman**

Ruven is a cuckoo-clock salesman who sells his wares door to door...to door...to door. In yet another faceless hotel, strange things begin to happen. A shot! But he's the hotel's only guest. Has he dreamed a murder in advance? What if time stood still? What if you could change your boring life? Smart and thoughtful time-warp thriller.

Screening: Tuesday May 10, 3pm (Bloor)

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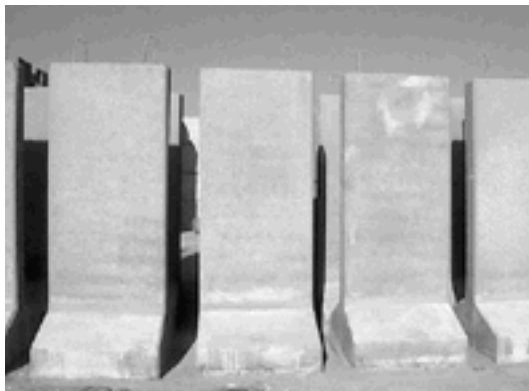
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## **WALL**

**FRANCE / ISRAEL 2004, 95 min**

**Hebrew, Arabic, English**

**Director: Simone Bitton**



Everybody has an opinion, but "The Wall" between Israeli and Palestinian territories has more than two sides. It will be a 50-metre-wide surveillance system of cameras, radar, barbed wire and electronic devices at a cost of \$1 million per kilometer. Palestinian land is expropriated, separating one man from his 2700 fruit and nut trees. Village separated from village,

workers from workplace, families from families. Are walls a solution or will people always try to get around and over them? Evocative camera and sound impart the meanings of the wall with real impact.

Screening: Wednesday May 11, 1pm (Bloor)

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## **WATERMARKS**

**FRANCE / ISRAEL / USA, 2004, 77 min**

**Hebrew, German, English**

**Co-Presentation with Hot Docs**

**International Documentary Festival**

**Director: Yaron Zilberman**



They're elderly now, but 70 years ago in Vienna they were champion swimmers in the largest Jewish sports club in the world. The Hakoah ("Strength" in Hebrew) formed in 1909 when Jews were barred from other clubs. The filmmaker reunites the team of women and invites them to swim in the original Hakoah pool that holds so many memories of so long ago. The pilgrimage is an exhilarating and inspiring look at personal and group history and memory.

with



**TWO LADIES****CANADA 2004, 4 min****English****Director: Sarah Lazarovic**

This whimsical, insightful film is animated in more ways than one. Two irrepressible “bubbes,” Helena, 85, and Marsha, 75, both came to Montreal as young women—one from Czechoslovakia and the other from the Bronx. To a soundtrack of lively Klezmer music, different attitudes toward life emerge.

Screening: Monday May 9, 7:30pm (Bloor)

This screening generously sponsored by  
STEPHEN and COOKIE SANDLER

**WOMEN FOR SALE****NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE****ISRAEL 2004, 56 min****Hebrew, Russian, English****Director / Writer: Nili Tal**

Prostitution is legal in Israel. Of the 500,000 young women from the former USSR who have fled to the west to work as prostitutes, about 20,000 have entered Israel. Shahida and Nargiza, Muslims from Uzbekistan, Valya from Ukraine, and Yulya, from a poor Russian village, don't speak Hebrew, but all came to Israel to earn money for themselves, their children and their families back home. Answering ads in newspapers—“Girls wanted for work abroad”—

these young women were sometimes sold and resold, held against their will in brothel-jails. Some escaped teenage divorce, alcoholic parents, or squalid living conditions in their homeland only to experience something worse in Israel.

Director invited.

with

**THE MAKING OF WOMEN FOR SALE****24 min**

This is the making of *Women for Sale*, and the stories behind stories behind it. Four women from the former Soviet Union who worked in Israel as prostitutes tell their tales.

Screening: Wednesday May 11, 4pm (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

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