



Get a taste of the
**14th Annual
Toronto Jewish
Film Festival**

May 6-14, 2006
416 324 9121
tjff.com

Happy together.



Proudly Supporting the 2006 Toronto Jewish Film Festival



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Welcome



Helen Zukerman,
Executive Director

Photo credit:
Aviva Zukerman Schure

Each year I grapple with what to say in the Executive Director's address and this year was no different UNTIL the week of February 6th.

On February 6th, we began a week-long series of screenings of the powerful film "Paper Clips", the story of a Middle School in Whitwell, Tennessee, a town of about 1200 residents, with no Jews and no knowledge of Jews and their history. The school began a Holocaust Education program that resulted in a rail car and museum memorial that is now visited by people from around the world.

Cineplex Entertainment made their theatres available to us, and we invited schools to attend free screenings of the film, followed by a discussion with a Holocaust survivor (or "witness", as Judy Cohen prefers to call herself). More than 1500 students – grades 4 through 12 from all backgrounds, participated. Each group had an experience that they will not soon forget.

This year we have introduced a couple of very exciting new "sidebar" themes. "Rhythm & Jews" consists of 12 films and a free panel that explore the fascinating relationship between Jewish and Black music.

Lee Grant is a special guest. Her story of being a woman in the film business is a fascinating one. We are screening two of the films she directed and she will be available for an "up close and personal" conversation.

We are also featuring the work of Israeli and Canadian animators. As if that isn't enough, we are co-hosting the International Conference of Jewish Film Festivals with the National Foundation of Jewish Culture in New York. Approximately 75 delegates from around the world will attend the Festival.

Presenting a film program, for us, is more than "popcorn and a movie". We try, at every opportunity, to entertain, to engage, to educate, to inform and provoke discussion and dialogue. For the Jewish community, as well as for the non-Jewish community, our mission is the same: we provide a window to and a mirror of Jews around the world and their diversity. We hope to shatter stereotypes and promote respect for each other, our cultures and beliefs.

Every year at Opening Night, as the lights go down it's magic! How wonderful that magic can also have a mission.

Paper Clips will be screened free to student and seniors Tuesday, May 9 through Friday May 12 at 10:00 AM. Please see our web site for details about registering your group.

PS. To Maya and Jody – thanks for submitting the video – looks like a great wedding! Mazel tov!

Festival at a Glance

MAY 2006	6 Saturday	7 Sunday	8 Monday	9 Tuesday
10:00 am		BC 10:30 In The Land of the Jews + Jolly Paupers		AG Paper Clips
11:00 am			AG Maurice Sendak's Animation for Children	
12:00 noon		AG Winning with Miki + Sunday School Lockout		AG Journey of Vaan Nguyen
1:00 pm		BC The Children's House + Kibbutz	BC Goodbye Holland	BC Abe Nathan
2:00 pm		AG Betty Boop	AG Porgy & Bess	AG Maurice Sendak & All His Wild Things
3:00 pm		BC 3:15 From Shtetl to Swing	BC Just an Ordinary Jew	BC Man Who Sold Eichmann & Mengele + Torte Bluma
4:00 pm		AG Screening Info: 416.787.1151 x300		AG Strange Fruit
5:00 pm		BC 39 Pounds of Love	BC Joy	BC Roots
6:00 pm		AG The Land of the Settlers 1 & 2	AG The Land of the Settlers 3 & 4	AG The Land of the Settlers 5
7:00 pm		BC Wrestling with Angels	BC Isn't This a Time!	BC Melting Siberia + A Shtetl That's No Longer There
8:00 pm		AG 8:30 Hitler Cantata	AG 8:30 Avi Avi	AG Rhythm & Jews Panel
9:30 pm	BC Sarah Silverman / Irene Williams AG Gloomy Sunday	BC 51 Birch Street	BC Something Sweet	BC Olga
11:45 pm	BC Immaculate Funk			

Legend

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

BC Bloor Cinema
506 Bloor St. W.
Toronto, Ontario

Tickets

CALL 416.324.9121
CLICK www.tjff.com

10 Wednesday	11 Thursday	12 Friday	13 Saturday	14 Sunday
AG Paper Clips	AG Paper Clips	AG Paper Clips		
				BC Summer Story + The Red Toy
AG Strike	AG Katzen + Witch from Melchet St.	AG My Land Zion + Draft		AG Tell Me a Riddle
BC Two Lives of Eva	BC A Treasure in Auschwitz	BC Until Tomorrow Comes + Kleine Miriam'l		BC Hineini
AG Code Name Silence + Shalom Asmara	AG Claire's Notebooks	AG Beethoven's Hair		AG A Father...A Son... Once Upon a Time... + Lee Grant Q&A
BC A Star Hidden in the Backlands	BC Anna's Summer	BC Miracle in Krakow		BC The Dybbuk
AG Jewboy + Yours Ivan	AG Somewhere Over the Rainbow	AG Paul Robeson: Here I Stand		
BC Belzec	BC Weider Brothers + Dorchester Street			BC Hitmakers
AG Cuba: Beyond the Pearl of the Antilles + The Last Greeks	AG We Want the Light			AG Marti: The Passionate Eye
BC 7:30 Out of Sight	BC Ne Quitter Pas!			BC La Petite Jerusalem
AG Brooklyn Babylon + Matisyahu + Khasenjeh	AG Israeli & Canadian Animation			AG Lover Other
BC Steel Toes	BC Two of Us		BC Only Human AG Private	BC Knowledge Is the Beginning
	BC Godfathers & Sons		BC Blue Note	

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Free Programmes

Tickets are required for these free events and screenings.

WINNING WITH MIKI / SUNDAY SCHOOL LOCKOUT

Screening, Sunday May 7, 12:00 Noon (AG) (Page 47)

A charming story mixed with some magical realism perfect for teens and tweens. You can also meet the cast and director of Sunday School Lockout.

At this screening, subtitles will be read aloud.

BETTY BOOP'S YIDDISH ROOTS

Presentation, Sunday May 7, 2:00 PM (AG) (Page 16)

Dr. Amelia Holberg presents a fun, entertaining talk with film clips.

MAURICE SENDAK'S ANIMATION FOR CHILDREN

Screening: Monday May 8, 11:00 AM (AG) (Page 32)

A free programme for kids of animated films based on the work of author/illustrator Maurice Sendak.

Generously sponsored by: NBC UNIVERSAL.
Weekday Matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR,
Official Newspaper Sponsor.

PAPER CLIPS

**Screenings, Tuesday through Friday, May 9–12,
10:00 AM (AG) (Page 36)**

Be a part of an important film that changed the lives of a whole town. An enlightening, free programme for groups and schools. If you wish to make a group booking for this film contact Claire Benezra at jnc@rogers.com

This programme is generously sponsored by: UJA FEDERATION.
Weekday Matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR,
Official Newspaper Sponsor.

RHYTHM & JEWS PANEL

Panel, Tuesday May 9, 8:00 PM (AG) (Page 39)

Hear a thought-provoking panel of luminaries discuss the musical relationship of Blacks and Jews.

The Rhythm & Jews Series is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY.

ISRAELI AND CANADIAN ANIMATION CELEBRATION

Screening, Thursday May 11, 8:00 PM (AG) (Page 26)

See the immense talent in the field of animation from Israel and Canada. Presented in conjunction with the Toronto Animated Images Society.

This programme is generously sponsored by:
CANADA-ISRAEL COMMITTEE in association with
UJA FEDERATION.

LEE GRANT

Q&A, Sunday May 14, 3:30 PM (AG)

Hear a free, extended Q & A with Academy Award® winning actor/director Lee Grant, director of Tell Me a Riddle and A Father... A Son... Once Upon a Time in Hollywood.

Spotlight on Lee Grant generously sponsored by MARSHA BRONFMAN.

THE WEIDER BROTHERS: MEN OF IRON

Thursday May 11, 5:00 PM (BC) (Page 46)

An intimate, behind-the-scenes profile of fitness icons Joe and Ben Weider, with Ben Weider in attendance.

Rhythm & Jews

THE BLACK-JEWISH MUSICAL CONNECTION

“JEWISH AND BLACK MUSIC ARE BOTH FORMS OF SOUL.

THEY SHARE THE BLUE NOTE. THEY SHARE THE WAIL.

THEY SHARE BOUNDLESS ENERGY AND HUMOUR.”

From the film *From Shtetl to Swing*,
written and directed by Fabienne Rouso-Lenoir

Almost all of the major American popular music songwriters are Jewish—George Gershwin, Harold Arlen, Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Leiber and Stoller, Carole King, Bob Dylan, Randy Newman and numerous others. But it was the realization that so many of these songwriters were inspired by African-American music that led to the idea for this sidebar series. Reflection on some of TJFF’s musical hits of the past which touch on Black-Jewish relations—Keep on Walking: Joshua Nelson; Jazzman from the Gulag; The Weintraub Syncopators; Awake Zion—further pointed the way to a fascinating and unique musical connection.

Rhythm & Jews is comprised of 12 films tracing the synthesis of Jewish and Black music, from the wave of Eastern European Jewish immigrants to America starting in the 1880s, through to the vaudeville, Tin Pan Alley and Big Band eras, to the Golden Age of Broadway, the Brill Building years of the ‘50s and ‘60s and the heydays of jazz and blues, right up to the rap, reggae and hip hop of the present day.

The interplay of Jewish and Black musical traditions is, in fact, the story of American popular music itself. There is a wealth of written material on this musical fusion. Research on the internet yielded a welcome surprise—a marvellous radio documentary called *Jews and Blues* by journalist Michael Goldfarb for WBUR in Boston. Goldfarb’s radio piece helped provide the framework for the film series. Inspiration also came from Billy Crystal—specifically his description of growing up in an atmosphere of “brisket and bourbon,” described in his book and one-man show, *700 Sundays*. Crystal’s uncle Milt Gabler founded Commodore Records and was the only one with the guts to record Billie Holiday’s haunting song *Strange Fruit* written by Abel Meeropol, a Jewish teacher from the Bronx. (Gabler is interviewed in the excellent film of the same name, which we are reprising for the series.)

The link between Jews and Blacks can be traced to shared musical roots. Scholars and musicologists have compared the commonalities in tonal expression and musical sensibilities of both cultures—echoes of the cantorial tradition, klezmer and other musical influences of the Jews with the distinct sounds of blues and jazz created by African-Americans. The Jews have the “krecht” or distinguishing sobbing sound; the blues have soul. There is also the history of oppression and subjugation that serves as a backdrop to the music of both groups.

At the end of the 19th century, Jewish immigrants were thrown together on the lowest rungs of the social hierarchy with Blacks escaping the segregationist south, in impoverished neighbourhoods of northern cities. A different kind of “street music” emerged, as Jews and African-Americans living in places like the Lower East Side of New York and the South Side of Chicago picked up on each other’s rhythms and cadences. From this cultural intermingling, the Jewish composers of Tin Pan Alley reinterpreted Black music for the mainstream, and created such enduring standards as Fascinatin’ Rhythm, Alexander’s Ragtime Band, Blues in the Night, Stormy Weather and Swanee.

There are obviously some sensitive and contentious issues that emerge in any exploration of this complex topic—the blackface tradition of minstrelsy and the dominant role Jewish entertainers played in it; questions of financial exploitation and appropriation of the music, since the vast majority of composers, club owners, managers and record producers were Jewish (see excerpt from Rhythm & Blues; Blacks & Jews on page 11 of programme insert).

There’s also the other side of the coin. Jewish composers and record producers were among the first to fall in love with, feel an affinity for, and publicly recognize the incredible talent of African-American musicians. Jewish bandleaders like Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw were the first to integrate Black performers in their groups and the Jewish intellectual and cultural community were the dominant force in the history of civil rights, social justice, and the political left. These and other issues will be explored in a critical discussion with a panel of luminaries on Tuesday, May 9th at 8:00 PM.

We could only scratch the surface in presenting a series on such a rich topic. Each era/musical genre/songwriter merits a separate series, with a wealth of musical and social history to explore. We hope that the films we’ve selected provide a great introduction to the subject, reflecting major themes as well as providing a showcase for a variety of musical genres, from jazz and blues to Broadway rhythms to opera, rap and reggae.

In addition to the provocative content of the films and discussions with guest speakers, perhaps most importantly, there are the musical performances in each of the films we’ve selected—energetic, entertaining, soulful, pulsing, rocking—that will move you. Not just emotionally, but literally, we hope—out of your seats and dancing to the beat.

Ellie Skrow, Curator, Special Programmes
Stuart Hands, Programmer

PLEASE SEE PAGE 11 FOR AN INDEX OF THE RHYTHM & JEWS FILMS.

The Rhythm & Jews series is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY.

Opening Night Film

SARAH SILVERMAN: JESUS IS MAGIC

USA 2005, 72 min

Director: Liam Lynch

Writer: Sarah Silverman

Cast: Sarah Silverman, Brian Posehn,

Bob Odenkirk, Laura Silverman

Screening: Saturday May 6, 9:30 PM (BC)



"I was raped by a doctor...which is so bit-tersweet for a Jewish girl": This is only one of the outrageous lines in comedienne Sarah Silverman's (The Aristocrats, Saturday Night Live) gutsy one-woman show. Continuing in the tradition of comedians like Lenny Bruce, she performs a series of outrageous jokes, song parodies and sketches that tackle the topics of race, sex, culture, family, social status, the Holocaust, 9/11, AIDS, child pregnancy, drugs and death...no subject is taboo. "Explosively funny...unnervingly shocking...[and] perversely adorable." (Variety). Not for the faint of heart.

Warning: coarse language and sexual content.

With

IRENE WILLIAMS: QUEEN OF LINCOLN ROAD

USA 2005, 23 min

Director: Eric Smith



A documentary film that chronicles the blossoming friendship between filmmaker Eric Smith and Irene Williams—a flashy, colourfully attired woman who designs all of her own outrageous outfits and lives on Lincoln Road in South Beach, Miami. This brassy, bold woman endears herself to us with wonderful anecdotes and colourful stories of her past. This is a delightful and funny story about a real life, modern day 'Harold and Maude' who navigate an extremely special friendship.

Opening Night generously sponsored by:



Closing Night Film

KNOWLEDGE IS THE BEGINNING: DANIEL BARENBOIM AND THE WEST- EASTERN DIVAN ORCHESTRA

GERMANY 2005, 92 min

English, Hebrew, Various

Director: Paul Smaczny

Screening: Sunday May 14, 9:30 PM (BC)



Young Arab, Palestinian and Jewish musicians make up the membership of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, co-founded in 1999 by Daniel Barenboim and the late literary critic/scholar Edward Said. Dubbed "The Peace Orchestra," this extraordinary project is both a magnificent symbol of the power of music to overcome prejudice and, according to Barenboim, an optimistic metaphor for what is achievable in the Middle East. The film follows the orchestra's performances in such locales as Seville, Weimar (Germany), Geneva and Ramallah, transcending political boundaries on the common ground of playing music together. This powerful documentary, with its beautiful classical repertoire and the eloquence of its young creators, is a profoundly moving testament to the dream of Barenboim and Said.

Closing Night generously sponsored by:



Rhythm & Jews

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Songs of Freedom

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Heading Towards Zion

The Rhythm & Jews series is made possible by
the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY.

Spotlight

LEE GRANT

We are thrilled to welcome Academy Award®-winning director and actor Lee Grant. The TJFF will be screening two of her films on Sunday May 14th: her groundbreaking first feature film, *Tell Me a Riddle* starring Lila Kedrova and Melvyn Douglas (see page 39) as well as her latest documentary, *A Father... A Son... Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, a candid profile of Kirk and Michael Douglas (see page 21). Following the second screening, there will be a free, extended Q&A with Ms. Grant as she discusses her illustrious career.

After her acclaimed acting debut in *Detective Story*, Ms. Grant's career was cut short by the McCarthy Era blacklist. Twelve years passed before she returned to the screen, receiving Oscar® nominations for performances in *The Landlord* and *Voyage of the Damned* as well as winning an Academy Award® for her unforgettable role in *Shampoo*. Her other acting credits include *In The Heat of the Night*, *Dr. T. and the Women*, *Mulholland Dr.* and *Going Shopping*.

Ms. Grant has directed numerous award-winning documentaries on such topics as domestic violence, childcare, breast cancer, and most recently, the medics in Iraq. She is also the recipient of two Emmy Awards and a second Oscar® for her HBO documentary *Down and Out in America* which depicted the homeless victims of "Reaganomics". We are delighted to honour this very humane voice of the American cinema (see also interview excerpt on page 8 of the insert).

Spotlight on Lee Grant generously supported by MARSHA BRONFMAN.

MAURICE SENDAK

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival pays tribute to celebrated children's author/illustrator Maurice Sendak with two special presentations: a free programme of animated films for children based on Sendak's stories (see page 32) plus a documentary about the artist and his work, *Maurice Sendak & All His Wild Things*, directed by Herbert Danska (see page 32). Sendak also appears in the film *Wrestling with Angels* (see page 47) which includes some wonderful excerpts from his book and opera *Brundibar*, which were collaborations with close friend Tony Kushner.

Where the Wild Things Are, Sendak's most beloved book is currently being made into a feature film directed by Spike Jonze and slated for release in 2007. A major exhibit of his work, focusing on the influences of his Jewish Brooklyn childhood, was on display at the Jewish Museum in New York last summer, and Sendak and Kushner have just re-staged the *Brundibar* opera and opened it in New Haven, Connecticut and New York, running until May 21st with another of their operas, *Comedy on the Bridge*. With "Wild Things" references on a recent episode of *The Simpsons* and acknowledgement at the recent Academy Awards, 77-year-old Maurice Sendak is very much in the popular cultural news these days. We are pleased to present a taste of Sendak for Toronto audiences at this year's Toronto Jewish Film Festival (see the excerpt from Tony Kushner's book, *The Art of Maurice Sendak*, on page 3 of programme insert).

Generously sponsored by:



Weekday Matinees presented by:



Official Newspaper Sponsor.

Program Notes

39 POUNDS OF LOVE

TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2005, 74 min

Hebrew

Director: Dani Menkin

Screening: Sunday May 7, 5:00 PM (BC)



An inspirational, triumph-of-the-human-spirit documentary that transcends all sentimentality and cliché. At birth, Ami Ankilewitz was diagnosed with a rare form of muscular dystrophy (Spinal Muscular Atrophy or SMA) and given six years to live. At age 34, weighing only 39 pounds, Ami is an accomplished Israeli animator who pursues his dreams—confronting the doctor who gave him his death sentence and riding a Harley Davidson. By turns a very touching love story and a wild road movie, 39 Pounds integrates Ami's animation to recount his remarkable life story and the devotion and love of his friends and family.

Israeli Ophir Award (Israeli Academy of Television and Film)
— Best Documentary Film.

Generously sponsored by GERALD SCHWARTZ.

51 BIRCH STREET

USA 2005, 90 min

Director: Doug Block

Screening: Sunday May 7, 9:30 PM (BC)



At times funny and heartbreaking, 51 Birch Street asks the question, "Do we really know our parents?" For 55 years Mike and Mina Block appeared to have the perfect marriage, but four months after his mother's untimely passing, filmmaker Doug Block was stunned to find out that his father was moving to Florida to live with the secretary he worked with 40 years ago. With camera in hand Doug returns to his childhood home to unlock a veritable Pandora's box of secrets about a fractured marriage and attempts to make sense of all he knew in the face of devastating revelations about his parents' lives. 51 Birch Street is a moving portrait of family, love and understanding, handled with great skill and sensitivity.

Guest: Director Doug Block.

Generously sponsored by:



ABE NATHAN: AS THE SUN SETS

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2005, 78 min

Hebrew

Director: Eytan Harris

Screening: Tuesday May 9, 1:00 PM ((BC)



Abe Nathan, one of Israel's most beloved heroes, was a peace advocate, a rebel, and a shining example of humanity. He became an international sensation in 1966 with his one man mission for peace that inspired John Lennon to immortalize his name in the song Give Peace a Chance. He ran a pirate radio station, organized humanitarian aid missions and was imprisoned for his secret meetings with the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. This profile shows Nathan as he is now—lonely and struggling after a series of strokes, but still fighting to offer hope in an increasingly hostile world.

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ANNA'S SUMMER

TORONTO PREMIERE

GERMANY/GREECE/SPAIN 2001, 97 min

Greek, Spanish, German

Director & Screenwriter: Jeanine Meerapfel

Cast: Angela Molina, Gerbert Knaup, Dimitris Katalifos

Screening: Thursday May 11, 3:00 PM (BC)



Anna's Summer is the gentle tale of a young Sephardic woman's return to her family home along the Mediterranean sea. Of Greek and Spanish heritage, Anna has returned to prepare for the sale of her deceased father's property. What looks like a simple task is made difficult as old memories flood back, and the magic of the countryside is cause for reflection and reconsideration. The film shimmers like the sun-kissed sea with gorgeous cinematography of the Greek Islands. The director's lilting style is aided by a moving performance from veteran Spanish actress Angela Molina.

Special Jury Prize, Mar Del Plata International Film Festival.

Weekday Matinees presented by:

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AVI, AVI**CANADA / ISRAEL 2006, 71 min****Hebrew****Director: Avi Lev****Screening: Monday May 8, 8:30 PM (AG)**

Documentary about two friends both named Avi, who discover that they both have the exact same dreams and goals of childhoods past. The fast friends decide to embark on a transformative journey back to Israel to explore and make fantasies, long thought impossible, come true.

Guest: Director Avi Lev.

BEETHOVEN'S HAIR**CANADA 2005, 82 min****Director: Larry Weinstein****Writer: Thomas Wallner****Cast: Larry Hauser, Michael Fletcher,****Max Wittman, Marek Olbrzymek****Screening: Friday May 12, 2:00 PM (AG)**

What possible Jewish connection could there be in the remarkable discovery of a lock of Ludwig van Beethoven's hair? Follow the fascinating trail in this musical mystery tour by acclaimed director Larry Weinstein. Based on Russell Martin's best-selling book, the film begins with the clipping of the composer's hair upon his death, by a young Jewish musical prodigy, Ferdinand Hiller. The lock, passed on to Hiller's son, ends up in the possession of a Danish doctor who helped German-Jewish refugees flee the Nazis. In 1994, it turned up at Sotheby's and was bought by two Americans named Ira Brilliant and Che Guevara (really!), leading to amazing scientific discoveries. A true story combining documentary and dramatic re-enactments.

Guest: Director Larry Weinstein.

Weekday Matinees presented by:

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BELZEC

TORONTO PREMIERE

FRANCE 2005, 112 min

Hebrew, Polish, French

Director: Guillaume Moscovitz

Screening: Wednesday May 10, 5 :00 PM (BC)



A skilful and chilling documentary, *Belzec* looks back at the horrifically efficient Nazi death camp that, in the less than one year it existed, was responsible for the extermination of a staggering 600,000 Jews. First-time filmmaker Guillaume Moscovitz created this film to defiantly defeat attempts by the SS to erase all traces of the camp. Not an easy watch, *Belzec* is a powerful cinematic time capsule of one of the most horrific atrocities in history.

BETTY BOOP'S YIDDISH ROOTS

75 min

Free Presentation: Sunday May 7, 2:00 PM (AG)



Explore the Jewish roots of Betty Boop! One of the most popular screen stars of the 1930s, Betty Boop worked, played and flirted in a world just like the one her Jewish immigrant creators, Max and Dave Fleischer, knew best. Betty Boop's Jewish background was influential in her rise to stardom. Shorts like *Any Rags* and *Minding the Baby* situated Betty in urban, immigrant neighbourhoods where hip jazz music provided the score to everyday life. Yiddish characters and phrases appeared wherever she went. Dr. Amelia Holberg, a media studies professor at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., presents an entertaining talk complimented by clips from select Betty Boop animated films.

BLUE NOTE—A STORY OF MODERN JAZZ 🎵

GERMANY 1996, 90 min

English, French, German

Writer/Director: Julian Benedikt

Screening: Saturday May 13, 11:45 PM (BC)



Thelonius Monk, Art Blakey, Bud Powell, Herbie Hancock, Sonny Rollins, Miles Davis, John Coltrane...the list goes on and on. The Blue Note label set standards of excellence over several decades with its groundbreaking recordings of the most important jazz musicians of the day. Its founders, Alfred Lion and Frank Wolff, were Jews who emigrated from Nazi Germany to America in 1939 and made a profession out of their love for Black music. A testament to the passion and the vision of these two men, this musical tribute illustrates how European Jewish heritage combined with an African American art form to influence generations of musicians. With a dynamite soundtrack and fantastic archival footage of legendary players.

Grammy Nomination—Best Long Form Video (1997).

C.I.C.A.E Award—Best Film (1997).

Vision Award (1998). Peabody Award (1998).

The Rhythm & Jews Series is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY. Midnight Screenings presented by:



BROOKLYN BABYLON 🎵

USA / FRANCE 2001, 89 min

Director: Marc Levin

Writers: Marc Levin, Bonz Malone, Pam Widener

Cast: Tariq Trotter, Karen Goberman,

Bonz Malone, David Vadim

Screening: Wednesday May 10, 8:00 PM (AG)



Set in the wake of 1991's Crown Heights riots between Jews and African-Americans, Brooklyn Babylon depicts a romance between an Orthodox Jewish girl (Karen Goberman) and a Rastafarian musician (sensitively played by Tariq Trotter of the group The Roots). Their love serves as hope for bringing the two divided communities together. (Director Levin dubbed the film "West Side Story meets The Harder They Come.") Boasting a terrific score by The Roots, the film's soundtrack bridges Jewish and Black musical traditions using cantorial, reggae and hip hop styles. Provocative and touching, Brooklyn Babylon portrays the commonalities between two cultures and histories in a time of escalating racial tension.

Guest: Director Marc Levin will participate in the Rhythm & Jews Panel, Tuesday May 9, 8:00 PM (AG).

With

MATISYAHU

USA 2004, 12 min

Director: David Baugnon

A great introduction to Matisyahu (born Matthew Miller): devout Orthodox Jew and rap/reggae phenomenon. Matisyahu was largely inspired by Bob Marley, whose music initially connected the Hasidic Jew to his religious roots. He is now performing to sold-out crowds and rising to the top of the Billboard charts. Includes interviews and performance clips.

And

KHASENJAH: THE JAMAICAN JEWISH WEDDING

CANADA 2003, 6 min.

Director: David Stein

A Jewish boy and a Jamaican girl are about to get married. They are in love, but will their families' fear and mistrust of each other spoil the big day? This allegorical tale of inter-ethnic marriage and cultural collision features the original music of Beyond The Pale and the mesmerizing choreography of Kaeja d'Dance's Allen Kaeja.

The Rhythm & Jews Series is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUSE

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2005, 52 min

Hebrew

Director: Tamar Feingold

Screening: Sunday May 7, 1:00 PM (BC)



A moving portrait of what it was like growing up in the Israeli kibbutz environment, where children were taken from their homes and brought up by the socialist collective. In the summer of 2005, a team of kibbutz-born artists presented an art exhibition at the Tel Aviv Museum called "Communal Sleeping." It allowed them to recreate their experiences and share their recollections of growing up communally in the children's house. Director Tamar Feingold couples contemporary images with archival footage to create a film that raises fascinating questions about a way of life unfamiliar to North American audiences.

Guest: Director Tamar Feingold.

With

KIBBUTZ

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2005, 54 min

Hebrew

Director: Racheli Schwartz

A true story of cultural survival set in the Hulata Kibbutz near the border of Lebanon.

Amidst the backdrop of changing Israeli cultural, economic and ideological factors, the Kibbutzim find themselves forced to reconsider their potential fate as a society as they lose faith and trust in the leaders in charge of their slowly crumbling communal living space.

CLAIRE'S NOTEBOOKS (LES CARNETS DE CLAIRE)

TORONTO PREMIERE

FRANCE 2004, 76 min

French

Director: Serge Lalou

Screening: Thursday May 11, 2:00 PM (AG)



"This is the story of grief, of a separation, of a pathway that leads to a possible rebirth," says director Serge Lalou. Claire Simha Lalou, the filmmaker's mother, died at the young age of 57 in her beloved countryside, the picturesque Cévennes region of France. Her son beautifully interweaves reflective passages from the journals she left behind, with candid and eloquent interviews with his father, relatives, friends and family rabbi about their memories of Claire, about mourning and about accepting loss. The film is a moving portrait of a remarkable woman, and a profound, evocative meditation on the mysteries of death and of life.

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CODE NAME SILENCE

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2005, 50 min

Hebrew, Aramaic

Director: Yifat Kedar

Screening: Wednesday May 10, 2:00 PM (AG)



Disturbing and shocking revelations come to the surface when the code of silence about Operation Moses is finally broken between the Ethiopian Jewish community and the Jewish Agency. Numerous witnesses speak out about the horrors inflicted by members of the Komite, who were in charge of the Sudanese transit camps that housed thousands of Ethiopian Jews en route to Israel. Stories by witnesses and victims, expose a dark, sordid tale of supposed heroes who abused their powers, and brave survivors who are only now finding a voice after the silence.

With

SHALOM ASMARA

ITALY/ ERITREA 2006, 31 min

Directors: Marco Cavallarin, Marco Mensa

A unique story chronicling the untold history of Jews in the African country of Eritrea. The film effectively uses archival footage and strong narration to provide a glimpse into this small but vital community.

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CUBA: BEYOND THE PEARL OF THE ANTILLES

USA 2005, 71 min

English, Spanish

Director: Joycelyn Bejar

Screening: Wednesday May 10, 6:00 PM (AG)



This compelling documentary chronicles the lives of Cuban Jews who left Cuba in 1960, after having resided there since the early 1900s. The film deals with the political impact that the Castro regime had on these people, their lives and their culture. It also profiles the community still living there—looking at their fight to maintain closeness to their Jewish roots and practice their Judaism, as well as tracing how they arrived in Cuba. A fascinating and fresh portrait of a little known group in a country fraught with political turmoil.

Guest: Director Joycelyn Bejar.

With

THE LAST GREEKS ON BROOME STREET

USA 2006, 37 min

Director: Ed Askenazi

A personal documentary about the only remaining Romaniote synagogue in the Western Hemisphere—the Kehila Kedosha Janina on Broome Street in New York City.

Guest: Director Ed Askenazi.

THE DYBBUK

CANADIAN PREMIERE

POLAND 1999, 90 min

Polish

Director: Agnieszka Holland

Screening: Sunday May 14, 3:00 PM (BC)



Director Agnieszka Holland's (*Europa, Europa*) potent retelling of the classic supernatural Yiddish play. Set in a Polish shtetl, two men vow to betroth their unborn children. But the father of Leah, the young woman, reneges on his promise and gives his daughter's hand to another man. The wronged suitor dies shortly thereafter and takes possession of Leah's body to win his rightful bride back.

A FATHER...A SON...ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA 2005, 93 min

Director: Lee Grant

Screening: Sunday May 14, 2:00 PM (AG)



Kirk Douglas and his son Michael are profiled in this intimate and revealing HBO portrait of a Hollywood dynasty. Academy Award®-winning director Lee Grant, a family friend, was given rare access to record the often tempestuous nature of their father-son relationship, with surprisingly candid results. A deep love between the two emerges, despite the frank talk about their differences. Includes great film clips from both Kirk's and Michael's careers as well as footage of Kirk's Bar Mitzvah at age 83. See also Tell Me a Riddle by director Lee Grant, Sunday May 14, Noon (AG).

Guest: A free question and answer session with Director Lee Grant will follow the screening. Spotlight on Lee Grant generously sponsored by MARSHA BRONFMAN.

FROM SHTETL TO SWING: A MUSICAL ODYSSEY 🎵

FRANCE 2005, 52 min

Director: Fabienne Roussio-Lenoir

Screening: Sunday May 7, 3:15 PM (BC)



A film that traces the birth of American popular music, from its roots in the Yiddish tradition, through to vaudeville, Tin Pan Alley, Broadway, Hollywood, the Big Band era and jazz. This is the collective story of Jewish entertainers such as Al Jolson, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Fanny Brice, Sophie Tucker, Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw, among other immigrants or children of immigrants who would remake themselves into Americans by becoming the most popular media stars of the day. Harvey Fierstein narrates, with marvellous movie clips, archival footage and fabulous songs.

Guest: Director Fabienne Roussio-Lenoir.
The Rhythm & Jews Series is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY.

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 Marozsan

Screening: Saturday May 6, 9:30 PM (AG)



People just can't get enough of Gloomy Sunday. We've shown it four times before and sold out each and every time. Gloomy Sunday is the name of a notorious Hungarian "suicide hymn-song" 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. A mix of drama and humour, the film has become a TJFF perennial.

GODFATHERS AND SONS 🎵

USA 2003, 92 min

Director: Marc Levin

Screening: Thursday May 11, 11:45 PM (BC)



Chess Records in Chicago was the home of such legendary blues artists as Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon, Howlin' Wolf, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley and Otis Spann. Leonard and Phil Chess were inspired to found the groundbreaking record company after being captivated by a gospel service they overheard outside a Black church on Maxwell Street. Director Marc Levin (Protocols of Zion) follows Marshall Chess, heir to the Chess Records legacy, and hip-hop artist Chuck D of Public Enemy, as they unite veteran blues players with contemporary musicians to explore the heyday of the Chicago blues. Part of Martin Scorsese's The Blues Series, this film is stunning on the big screen! Includes rare archival performances as well as appearances by Koko Taylor, Sam Lay, Ike Turner and others. Marc Levin is a panelist on Tuesday May 9, 8:00 PM.

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Midnight Screenings presented by:



GOODBYE HOLLAND (THE EXTERMINATION OF THE DUTCH JEWS)

CANADIAN PREMIERE

NETHERLANDS/BELGIUM/ISRAEL 2004, 90 min

English, Hebrew, Dutch

Director & Writer: Willy Lindwer

Screening: Monday May 8, 1:00 PM, (BC)



When referring to the Dutch, most of us have the image of a benign group of people in a small country best known for its tulip bulbs and wooden shoes. "Not so," says International Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Willy Lindwer with this new film. Of course, there were many who hid Jews at great risk to their own safety, but most did not. This film takes you through the deceit, blackmail and duplicitous behavior that will sadden even those of us who have heard it all before. Of Holland's 100,000 Jews, it is estimated that 80% of them were exterminated—the highest percentage of any western European country.

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HINEINI: COMING OUT IN A JEWISH HIGH SCHOOL

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA 2005, 60 min

Director: Irena Fayngold

Screening: Sunday May 14, 1:00 PM (BC)



Hineini depicts the attempts of gay students at the New Jewish High School in Boston to reconcile their wish for religiosity with their homosexuality. "Where do I fit into my tradition? What does it mean that I'm doing something that's prohibited by Torah," asks student Shulamit Izen. In trying to establish a Gay/Straight alliance in her school, Shulamit hopes to create a supportive community where she will feel comfortable in asking these sorts of questions. Hineini is a documentary about activism, self-actualization and commitment to a cause—a film we can all learn something from.

Special programme with guests, including Idit Klein, the film's Executive Producer.

HITLER CANTATA

TORONTO PREMIERE

GERMANY 2005, 124 min

German

Director & Writer: Jutta Bruckner

Cast: Lena Lauzemis, Hilmar Thate, Rike Schmid

Screening: Sunday May 7, 8:30 PM (AG)



As challenging as it is potent, *Hitler Cantata* is a powder keg, exploring the power of the Führer. It's the story of Hanns Broch, a jaded composer commissioned to pen a symphony for Hitler's 50th birthday. Secretly opposed to the Nazi regime, his inner turmoil is enhanced by the assignment of a beautiful new assistant, Ursula, a struggling composer obsessed with the Führer. The two must battle not only their ideological differences, but also the strange romantic attraction that is slowly simmering between them, one that could directly affect their future safety. A compelling cinematic puzzle.

HITMAKERS: THE TEENS WHO STOLE POP MUSIC 🎵

USA 2004, 90 min

Director: Morgan Neville

Writers: Peter Jones, Morgan Neville

Screening: Sunday May 14, 5:00 PM (BC)



They were a bunch of Jewish kids from Brooklyn who just happened to define one of the most magical periods in the history of rock 'n' roll. Working out of New York's legendary Brill Building in the 1950s and 60s, they created enduring hits like *Hound Dog* (Jerry Leiber & Mike Stoller), *Will You Love Me Tomorrow* (Carole King & Gerry Goffin), *On Broadway* (Barry Mann & Cynthia Weil), and *Walk on By* (Burt Bacharach & Hal David). Inspired by Black music, they wrote specifically for such artists as The Drifters, Dionne Warwick, Big Mama Thornton, The Shirelles and Ben E. King. Narrated by John Turturro, this highly entertaining gem is packed full of rousing performance clips and interviews that capture the heady spirit of the times.

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IMMACULATE FUNK 🎵**USA 2000, 72 min****Director: Tom Thurman****Screening: Saturday May 6, 11:45 PM (BC)**

Profiles the life and career of legendary music producer Jerry Wexler, from his early days at Billboard Magazine and his partnership with Ahmet Ertegun at Atlantic Records, to his move to Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Wexler coined the phrase "rhythm and blues" to replace the racist overtones of the previously named "race records." His blending of African-American rhythm and blues artists with white funk musicians was revolutionary and magical. Mixes interviews and performances with such featured artists as Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Etta James, Wilson Pickett, Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson, Dr. John and John Prine. Narrated by Kris Kristofferson.

The Rhythm & Jews Series is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY. Midnight Screenings presented by:

**IN THE LAND OF THE JEWS****ISRAEL 2003, 58 min****Hebrew and Yiddish****Director: Avida Livny****Screening: Sunday May 7, 10:30 AM (BC)**

We are delighted to present this loving documentary on legendary Yiddish comedy duo Dzigan and Shumacher. Part of a ten-episode television series on the origins of Israeli comedy, the film serves as both a portrait of the comedy team as well as a look into the changing status of Yiddish culture in Israel. The film boasts an abundance of film clips, footage and recreations of Dzigan and Shumacher's Polish and Israeli musical theatre performances. It also includes interviews with the daughter of Yisroel Shumacher and Israeli playwrights, as well as actors and comedians such as Topol and Mike Burstyn.

With

JOLLY PAUPERS (FREYLEKHE KABTSONIM)**POLAND 1937, 62 min****Yiddish****Directors: Leon Jeannot and Zygmund Turkow****Writers: Moshe Broderson, I.M. Najman****Cast: Shimon Dzigan, Yisroel Shumacher, F. Garbarg, Ruth Turkow, Chana Levin, Jennie Lovitch**

We complement our screening of In the Land of the Jews with this wonderful example of comic duo Dzigan and Shumacher. Like other great Yiddish stories, Jolly Paupers combines charac-

ter-oriented humour with an underlying sense of tragedy. Dzigan and Shumacher play Kopl the tailor and Naftali the mechanic, respectively. Both are poor and miserable. When they mistakenly discover oil, their whole town finds out. What follows is an irreverent send-up of shtetl life and attitudes. Throw in a rich American businessman, a matchmaker, a town millionaire, a barrel salesman, an insane asylum and an itinerant group of actors, and you have one of the best comedies from Yiddish film's golden age.

Dedicated to the memory of Jessie Haberfeld Freedman, Louis Freedman, and Morris Haberfeld.

ISN'T THIS A TIME!

USA 2004, 90 min

Director: Jim Brown

Screening: Monday May 8, 7:00 PM (BC)



A tribute to the late Harold Leventhal, the revered promoter of folk music, whose career spanned more than 50 years. Harold's name brings to mind the Guthries (Woody and Arlo), Dylan, Seeger and countless others. Leventhal received a Grammy Award and also produced several Academy Award®-winning films, including *Bound for Glory*. In 2003 he was honoured with a Carnegie Hall Concert that became the basis of this film. With performances by Pete Seeger, the Weavers, Peter, Paul and Mary, Theodore Bikel, Leon Bibb and many more—your feet will not stay still!

Generously sponsored by **STEPHEN & COOKIE SANDLER**.

ISRAELI AND CANADIAN ANIMATION CELEBRATION

Screening: Thursday May 11, 8:00 PM (AG)



A free programme showcasing the immense talent of animators from Israel and Canada. Features the work of Israeli animators Uri Kranot and Michal Pfeffer, who recently spent two years as artists-in-residence at the Netherlands Institute for Animation, as well as Arie Belinco, Or Moran and others. Canadian animators include Jesse Rosensweet, Ellen Besen, Rick Raxlen, Janet Perlman, Gail Noonan, Aaron Woodley, Steven Woloshen and others. Presented in conjunction with the Toronto Animated Image Society. For complete up-to-date information keep checking www.tjff.com. Please note this programme is not suitable for children. Uri Kranot and Michal Pfeffer will also conduct a free master class at the NFB on Wednesday May 10 at 8:00 PM. Call 416-533-7889 for information and tickets.

Generously sponsored by:



and



JEWBOY**AUSTRALIA 2005, 52 min****Director & Writer: Tony Krawitz****Cast: Ewen Leslie, Naomi Wilson, Saskia Burmeister****Screening: Wednesday May 10, 4:00 PM (AG)**

A crisis of faith amidst the backdrop of an Australian Hasidic community fuels this story of a young man's journey of self-discovery. Returning from Israel upon the death of his father, Yuri has lost faith in his Judaism. Broken and searching, he begins to drift, rejecting his loving former girlfriend Rivka, pushing boundaries of sexual awakening, and exploring a new world of pleasure, pain and passion. Jewboy offers a unique vision in Australian cinema by exploring the world of a seldom seen segment of culture and displaying an exciting new talent in director Tony Krawitz.

With

YOURS, IVAN**ISRAEL 2005, 25 min****Hebrew****Director: Kobi Paz**

A young girl sets about chronicling the Holocaust for her student newspaper as a way to ensure remembrance of the tragedy by her fellow classmates.

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THE JOURNEY OF VAAN NGUYEN**CANADIAN PREMIERE****ISRAEL 2005, 78 min****Vietnamese, Hebrew****Director: Duki Dror****Screening: Tuesday May 9, Noon (AG)**

This unusual and moving story follows the lives of Hoiامي Nguyen, his daughter Vaan, and fellow Vietnamese boat people who were granted sanctuary in Israel. The film is a portrait of these Vietnamese exiles and their assimilation into Israel, and deals with the displacement and lack of acceptance that some of them feel. These feelings compel Vaan to return to Vietnam with her father, 25 years after his escape. This journey becomes one of discovery and opens a floodgate of emotions. A film that will resonate with anyone who has experienced the difficulties of the immigrant experience.

Guest invited.

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JOY (MUCHRACHIM LEHIYOT SAMECH)

TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2005, 90 min

Hebrew

Director: Julie Shles

Writer: Omer Tadmor

Cast: Sigalit Fuchs, Tal Friedman, Keren Mor

Screening: Monday May 8, 5:00 PM (BC)



Despite her limited means, Joy Levine does everything to try and fill her life with happiness. Her existence changes for the better when she is chosen to appear on a game show called "Gotta Be Happy," and she sets about to plan a surprise party for her parents to help them reconcile with their friends. The selection for the game show comes at a cost: Joy must open up her private life to the world for all to see, and address many issues buried deep in her psyche and in the past of her parents. This journey will provide all involved with the opportunity for growth, change, happiness, and in Joy's case, a chance at true love. This is a marvelously assured film, full of warmth and humour.

JUST AN ORDINARY JEW

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

GERMANY, 2005, 89 min

German

Director: Oliver Hirschbiegel

Writer: Charles Lewinsky

Cast: Ben Becker

Screening: Monday May 8, 3:00 PM (BC)



The newest film from Oliver Hirschbiegel (Downfall) is a stirring portrait of one man's journey to discover his own identity as a Jew. Emanuel Goldfarb, a writer, is invited to present a lecture to schoolchildren about what it's like to be a Jew. Through a riveting monologue that addresses fundamental questions about what it means to be Jewish in Germany, Goldfarb wrestles with a decision about whether to accept the invitation at all. Acclaimed actor Ben Becker (seen in TJFF favourite Gloomy Sunday) turns in a complex tour-de-force performance. Engrossing and thought-provoking, Just an Ordinary Jew is sure to spark questions and self-reflection.

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KATZHEN**CANADIAN PREMIERE****ISRAEL 2005, 52 min****Hebrew, German****Director: Guy Michael****Writers: Ohad Zakbach & Ya'ad Biran****Cast: Guy Kersner, Yitzhak Hezkia,****Yevgenia Dudina, Dror Keren, Uri Klauzner****Screening: Thursday May 11, Noon (AG)**

Using its young, inquisitive title character to tell a story of loss and discovery, *Katzhen* is a heartbreaking tale of a boy searching for his deceased mother. He sets off on a journey to find his sick father, visiting family members and various locales across Israel. This is a poignant film that elegantly looks at the many difficult issues that children must face. *Katzhen*, who is a German immigrant, manages to assuredly handle cultural displacement, death, and loneliness.

With

THE WITCH FROM MELCHET STREET**CANADIAN PREMIERE****ISRAEL 2005, 52 min****Hebrew****Director: Dina Zvi-Riklis****Cast: Guy Kersner, Yitzhak Hezkia, Yevgenia Dudina,****Dror Keren, Uri Klauzner**

An urban legend with a dash of love, *The Witch From Melchet Street* brings together a love-struck young boy and a hard-hearted witch in

a delightful tale of understanding and friendship. The young hero is a daydreamer, bored by the sleepiness of his Tel Aviv apartment block, who pines for the affections of the new girl in the neighborhood. His curiosity leads him to an unexpected meeting with a lonely woman, the neighborhood witch. Together, this odd couple help each other find happiness, friendship and possibly even love.

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LAND OF THE SETTLERS**CANADIAN PREMIERE****ISRAEL 2005, 5 x 60 MINS****Hebrew****Director: Chaim Yavin****Screening : Parts I & II, Sunday May 7, 6:00 PM (AG),****Parts III & IV, Monday May 8, 6:00 PM (AG),****Part V Tuesday May 9, 6:00 PM (AG)**

An epic five-hour documentary series produced and directed by revered Israeli news anchor, Chaim Yavin. This searing travelogue takes us through Israel's occupied territories over the past two years, shot mostly by Yavin using a hand held mini DV camera. Placing himself directly into this volatile situation, Israel's Mr. Television faces off against settlers as well as criticism and accusations that he has lost his ability to be objective. Many people even called for his resignation as a news anchor. The series

has been broadcast to great acclaim around the world, and will make its Canadian premiere, shown over three days in its entirety, with Yavin himself in attendance.

Episode I: Exploring the plight of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, this potent episode shows the sometimes overzealous and hostile responses from Jewish settlers who are fervent in their belief that the Land of Israel belongs to the Jewish people, and their refusal to evacuate.

Episode II: Centered around the city of Hebron, this second episode shows the daily conflict between Jews and Arabs in the Holy City of the Patriarchs. Navigating the region, Yavin deposits himself into the middle of this fray and uses his camera to document the daily skirmishes between settlers and Palestinians.

Episode III: Dealing with the issue of the dividing wall between Israelis and Palestinians, Yavin attempts to make the powerful case that the wall has caused an escalation of the conflict.

Episodes IV & V: These two installments deal with the drama and danger that preceded Israel's disengagement and pullout from Gaza. Fraught with high tension and drama, they sensitively and angrily show the plight of both sides—Israeli and Palestinian widows and bereaved families who have lost loved ones in this tragic conflict between the two peoples of the Middle East. Yavin ends his troubled journey through the territories with a pessimistic tone: "I end my journey with an enormous pain in my heart, fearing another Intifada is on its way."

Guest: Chaim Yavin

Transportation for Mr. Yavin provided by:



LOVER OTHER

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA, 2006, 55 min

Director: Barbara Hammer

Screening: Sunday May 14, 8:00 PM (AG)



The fascinating and provocative story of French surrealist artists Claude Cahun and Marcel Moore is inventively brought to the screen by world-renowned documentarian Barbara Hammer. Cahun and Moore—lovers, artists and half sisters—were rebels using art, literature and their own lifestyles to challenge morals, politics and the general status quo. They were also staunch resisters to the Nazi occupation, facing death and horrific treatment in prison. Barbara Hammer incorporates interviews, archival images and dramatic recreations using an unpublished script found in Cahun and Moore's personal belongings to create a powerful, unique cinematic experience and to tell a little-known, remarkable story.

**THE MAN WHO SOLD
EICHMANN AND MENGELE****NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE****NETHERLANDS 2005, 50 min****Dutch****Director: Roelf Van Til****Screening: Tuesday May 9, 3:00 PM (BC)**

This documentary is the story of Willem Sassen—the Dutch opportunist, adventurer and ‘charming scoundrel’ who became a key figure in the eventual conviction of Adolf Eichmann. After a chance meeting between the two in an Argentinean bar, Sassen, a former Waffen SS war reporter, is commissioned by Eichmann to ghost write his official memoirs. Years later, not only would his documents be used in the Eichmann trial, Sassen himself is recruited to aid in the search for Josef Mengele. A bold and compelling portrait.

With**TORTE BLUMA****UK 2005, 18 min****Director: Benjamin Ross**

A Jewish prisoner enslaved to a high ranking Nazi officer asks for a special request in this sterling short. Stars the internationally renowned Stellan Skarsgaard.

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MARTI: THE PASSIONATE EYE**CANADIAN PREMIERE****NEW ZEALAND 2004, 73 min****Director: Shirley Horrocks****Screening: Sunday May 14, 6:00 PM (AG)**

Traces the personal story of Marti Friedlander, one of the world’s leading photographers. The film follows Marti from her youth, growing up in a Jewish orphanage in London’s East End, to her adult life where she records many of New Zealand’s major personalities and events. A fascinating portrait of a dynamic and feisty woman who has documented the social upheavals of the past forty years.

MAURICE SENDAK & ALL HIS WILD THINGS

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA 1985, 58 min

Director: Herbert Danska

Screening: Tuesday May 9, 2:00 PM (AG)



Dubbed "the Picasso of children's literature," Caldecott-winning author/illustrator Maurice Sendak is renowned for *Where the Wild Things Are*, *In the Night Kitchen* and *Brundibar* among other books. Perhaps not as well known are his incredible set designs for opera and ballet, as well as his writing of librettos. Director Herbert Danska captures the essence of a creative genius in this intimate documentary, revealing the profound influence of Sendak's Brooklyn childhood on his work, and the indelible impact of growing up with Jewish immigrant parents. See also *Maurice Sendak's Animation for Children*; May 8, 11:00 AM (AG) and *Wrestling with Angels*; May 7, 7:00 PM (BC).

Ciné Gold Eagle, Berlin Film Festival.

Guest: Director Herbert Danska.

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MAURICE SENDAK'S ANIMATION FOR CHILDREN

USA/CANADA 65 min

Writers/Directors: various

Screening: Monday May 8, 11:00 AM (AG)



A free programme for children of animated films based on the work of author/illustrator Maurice Sendak. Includes the delightful *Really Rosie* Starring the Nutshell Kids (with songs by Carole King); *Where the Wild Things Are*; *In the Night Kitchen* and an episode from the Nelvana-produced series *Seven Little Monsters*.

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MELTING SIBERIA**TORONTO PREMIERE****ISRAEL 2004, 72 min****Hebrew****Director: Ido Haar****Screening: Tuesday May 9, 7:00 PM (BC)**

Filmmaker Ido Haar embarks on a quest to find his grandfather—a Red Army officer who abandoned Ido's grandmother when she was pregnant with Ido's mother, Marina. At first, Marina is hesitant about Ido's endeavor—she isn't interested in finding the man who caused her mother so much grief, the man who didn't care enough to meet his own daughter. But once Ido finds his grandfather's telephone number, Marina begins an emotional journey that will culminate in the frozen landscape of Novosibirsk.

Guest: Director Ido Haar.

With

A SHTETL THAT'S NO LONGER THERE**NETHERLANDS 2004, 25 min****Spanish****Director: Heidi Honigman**

A mother tells the story of her family, while preparing typical Jewish food. It's a story of a family that immigrated from Poland to Peru, and now lives in Amsterdam. A loving documentary.

MIRACLE IN KRAKOW**CANADIAN PREMIERE****HUNGARY 2004, 94 min****Hungarian, Polish, Yiddish, Various****Director: Diana Groo****Writer: Diana Groo & Andras Szeker****Cast: Bartlomiej Swiderski, Itala Bekes, Eszter Biro****Screening: Friday May 12, 3:00 PM (BC)**

A multiple award-winning feature that follows Eszter, a young Hungarian art historian, on her journey through Krakow in search of ancient Jewish artifacts. Eszter is accompanied by Piotr, a young Polish man who surreptitiously steals a sacred book in Eszter's possession that was actually willed to him by his beloved deceased grandmother. As Eszter follows Piotr across vast cultural and language barriers, a gentle and sweet romance develops, one that will prove to be a true miracle of destiny. Director Diana Groo lovingly shoots this charming and mystical tale in the beautiful old Jewish quarters of Budapest and Krakow.

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MY LAND ZION

ISRAEL 2004, 57 min

Hebrew

Director: Yulie Cohen Gerstel

Screening: Friday May 12, Noon (AG)



A provocative personal essay, *My Land Zion* follows the director as she questions her own decision to return and raise her family in war-torn Israel, while challenging the myths of Zionism. She painfully ponders their future in a country embroiled in continuous war, exploring issues such as the murder of Jews in the Holocaust, the War of Independence, the rise in settlements and the condition of Palestinian refugees in Israel today. The documentary bravely and powerfully explores these issues.

With

DRAFT

ISRAEL 2004, 15 min

Hebrew

Director: Naomi Levari

A father wrestles with the difficult reality of his son's impending military service in this harrowing family drama.

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NE QUITTEZ PAS! (LOCAL CALL)

TORONTO PREMIERE

FRANCE 2004, 102 min

French

Director: Arthur Joffé

Writers: Arthur Joffé and Guy Zilberstein

Cast: Sergio Castellitto, Michel Serrault,

Isabelle Gélinas, Rachida Brakni

Screening: Thursday May 11, 7:00 PM (BC)



Internationally acclaimed actor Sergio Castellitto (*Va Savoir*) gives a touching performance in this magical and poignant comedy. Felix Mandel (Castellitto) has been mourning the loss of his father for two years until he accepts a collect call...it's his deceased father! As they spend more and more time compulsively exchanging phone calls, Felix's life skyrockets out of control (as do his phone bills). Writer-director Arthur Joffé describes his delightfully offbeat film as being about "the frustration that comes from not saying all you had to say to a loved one who has passed on."

OLGA**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE****BRAZIL 2004, 142 min****Portuguese****Director: Jayme Monjardim,****Writers: Rita Buzzar, Fernando Morais****Cast: Camilla Morgado, Caco Ciocler,****Fernanda Montenegro****Screening: Tuesday May 9, 9:30 PM (BC)**

Epic in tone and scope, Jayme Monjardim's film is based on the true story of German born Olga Benario Prestes, the wife of Brazilian Communist leader Luis Carlos Prestes. Olga was arrested and sent to Nazi Germany during the dictatorship of Getulio Vargas. A box office smash in its native Brazil, Monjardim's film is a noble tribute to a brave and important woman, featuring a star turn by newcomer Camilla Morgado as Olga and also starring the grande dame of Brazilian cinema, Fernanda Montenegro, Oscar® nominated for her role in Walter Salles' Central Station.

ONLY HUMAN**TORONTO PREMIERE****SPAIN / ARGENTINA / PORTUGAL / UK 2004, 93 min****Spanish****Directors & Writers: Dominic Harari, Teresa Pelegri****Cast: Norma Aleandro, Guillermo Toledo,****Marian Aguilera****Screening: Saturday May 13, 9:30 PM (BC)**

A splashy screwball comedy that explores the differences between Palestinian and Jewish people. Funny situations make you think about how similar these cultures actually are. The story begins when Leni, a Jewish girl, decides to introduce her fiancé, Rafi, a Palestinian man, to her family. After being shocked by the news, Leni's mother decides to support their union and gives her blessing to their engagement. Then, an accident caused by Rafi triggers several uproarious events that will keep you laughing all the way to the end.

OUT OF SIGHT

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 85 min

Hebrew

Director: Daniel Syrkin

Writer: Noa Greenberg

Cast: Tali Sharon, Israel Poliakov, Avigail Harari

Screening: Wednesday May 10, 7:30 (BC)



A tense thriller, *Out of Sight* follows a young blind student named Ya'ara, who is forced to return to Israel upon hearing of the suicide of her friend and cousin Talia. As children, the two were kindred spirits, with Talia acting as Ya'ara's eyes. As the traditional mourning period begins, Ya'ara begins to unravel a tangled web of secrets and lies that she will be forced to unveil in order to truly discover the truth behind her cousin's death.

Warning: sexual content.

Generously sponsored by:



PAPER CLIPS

USA 2004 87 min

English, German

Directors: Elliot Berlin, Joe Fab

Ticketed Free Screening: Tuesday May 9,

Wednesday May 10, Thursday May 11,

Friday May 12, 10:00 AM (AG)



In a mostly white and Christian rural Tennessee community, unaccustomed to cultural diversity, a unique classroom project teaches profound lessons. Struggling to grasp the concept of six million Holocaust victims the students decide to collect six million paper clips to better understand the extent of this crime against humanity. Vice Principal David Smith believes, "We must show our students that they can make a difference in this ever-changing world." Don't miss this inspirational film about combating the evils of hatred and intolerance.

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PAUL ROBESON: HERE I STAND 🎵

USA 1999, 118 min

Director: St. Claire Bourne

Screening: Friday May 12, 4:00 PM (AG)



Singer/actor Paul Robeson's music and political activism spoke to the hearts of Jews all over the world. As an African-American, he connected with the history of Jewish persecution and would often perform songs in Hebrew and Yiddish. Deeply socialistic, Robeson stood for black civil rights in America, and more broadly, for an international brotherhood. We are thrilled to honour Robeson's legacy by presenting this thorough and engaging documentary on the life of this true Renaissance man. Features archival footage, clips from his films and musical performances as well as revealing interviews with his son Paul Robeson Jr., Harry Belafonte, Pete Seeger, Uta Hagen, and Jewish writer Howard Fast among many others.

Guest: Author André Alexis.

The Rhythm & Jews Series is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY.

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LA PETITE JERUSALEM

TORONTO PREMIERE

FRANCE 2005, 96 min

French

Writer and Director: Karim Albou

Cast: Elsa Zylberstein, Bruno Todeschini

Screening: Sunday May 14, 7:00 PM (BC)



A sensitive and beautifully crafted feature set in the suburban Paris neighborhood of Sarcelles (known as Little Jerusalem). The film focuses on 18-year-old Laura, who must reconcile conflicting feelings stirred up by her study of Western philosophy with her Orthodox Jewish upbringing and culture, even as she tries to come to terms with her own place in her community. An all-star international cast, including Elsa Zylberstein and Bruno Todeschini, headline this intimate and thoughtful coming-of-age drama.

A 2005 Cannes Film Festival selection.

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PORGY AND BESS 🎵

UK 1993, 185 min

Director: Trevor Nunn

Writers: DuBose Heyward, Dorothy Heyward,
George Gershwin, Ira Gershwin

Cast: Willard White, Cynthia Haymon,
Gregg Baker, Damon Evans, Cynthia Cleary

Screening: Monday May 8, 2:00 PM (AG)



Trevor Nunn's highly acclaimed staging of the Gershwin classic, performed by the Glyndebourne Opera with Simon Rattle and the London Philharmonic Orchestra, is considered by the Gershwin family to be the best production ever made. George Gershwin's love of Black music is evident in most of his work, most notably Rhapsody in Blue, but it was Porgy and Bess, which he spent years researching in the South, that marks the fulfillment of Gershwin's dream—to create a Black folk opera that would tell an authentically American story. Summertime, It Ain't Necessarily So, Bess, You is My Woman Now and other musical highlights are a testament to the composer at the height of his mastery.

Guest: Author André Alexis.

Emmy Award—Outstanding Individual Achievement
in Art Direction for Variety Music Program, 1993.
Outstanding Cultural Program, 1994.

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PRIVATE

ITALY 2004, 90 min

Arabic, Hebrew

Director: Saverio Costanzo

Writers: Camilla Costanzo, Saverio Costanzo,
Alessio Cremonini, Syed Oashua

Cast: Mohammed Bakri, Lior Miller, Hend Ayoub

Screening: Saturday May 13, 9:30 PM (AG)



Caught in the crossfire of a Palestinian village and an Israeli settlement, the idyllic home of peaceful father Mohammad and his family of six is seized by the Israeli army. Refusing to allow his family to be removed from their rightful place, the non-violent patriarch engages in a tense emotional standoff with soldiers in a battle of heated emotions and escalating conflict. Starring Mohammed Bakri (Cup Final).

RHYTHM & JEWS PANEL 🎵**Discussion: Tuesday May 9, 8:00 PM (AG) Free**

A provocative discussion exploring some of the critical issues surrounding Black-Jewish relations in the creation of American music. Panelists include: acclaimed writer Jeffrey Melnick (author of *A Right to Sing the Blues: African Americans, Jews and American Popular Song*); filmmaker Marc Levin (*Godfathers and Sons* and *Brooklyn Babylon*); Norman "Otis" Richmond, journalist, CKLN Radio; and musician David Chevan and Warren Byrd of the Afro-Semitic Experience. Moderated by Danny Marks of JAZZ FM 91 followed by a live musical performance. Keep checking tjff.com for up-to-date info.

Photo credit: Ben Ledbetter.

The Rhythm & Jews Series is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY.

ROOTS**TORONTO PREMIERE****RUSSIA 2005, 107 min****Russian, Yiddish****Director: Pavel Lounguine****Writer: Gennady Ostrovsky****Cast: Konstantin Khabensky,****Sergey Garmash, Leonid Kanevsky****Screening: Tuesday May 9, 5:00 PM (BC)**

A bawdy, rollicking black comedy, *Roots* is the story of a Russian conman who sets about convincing a small town to pose as a WWII shtetl, so he can dupe unsuspecting Jews from around the world into thinking that they have found their long lost relatives. The cast of oddball characters includes an elderly Canadian national coming to meet his long-lost sister, a meek but sexually voracious Russian translator, an Israeli gangster (with coffin in tow), and a rebellious and flamboyant teenager. The end result is an all-out riot of hilarity and insanity that gloriously embraces its politically incorrect origins.

SOMETHING SWEET

ISRAEL 2004, 97 min

Hebrew

Director: Dan Turgeman

Cast: Dan Turgeman, Ayelet Zurer, Avital Abergel

Screening: Monday May 8, 9:30 PM (BC)



A heartwarming and romantic tale of unexpected love, *Something Sweet* is a frothy mélange of superstition and culture clash, centered on the love triangle between a beautiful Jewish-Moroccan pastry chef, her to-be-married youngest sister, and the sister's handsome fiancé from London. The blossoming romance sets off a chain reaction of romantic hijinks—and sweet delicacies. Wonderful performances, colourful cinematography, and a tightly woven and intricate script highlight this sharp and sassy film. It's sure to make you want to embrace love and its complexities all over again or experience it for the first time.

SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW: HAROLD ARLEN 🎵

USA 1999, 70 min

Director: Don McGlynn

Screening: Thursday May 11, 4:00 PM (AG)



Born in Buffalo, the son of a celebrated cantor, Harold Arlen was inspired by jazz and blues artists at a young age and became the resident songwriter (with Ted Koehler) for Harlem's famed Cotton Club in the '30s. Arlen wrote unforgettable songs for Cab Calloway, Ethel Waters, Lena Horne, Pearl Bailey, Diahann Carroll and others, as well as composing music for features such as *Cabin in the Sky* and *Stormy Weather* (and, of course, *The Wizard of Oz*!). His catalogue of over 400 songs includes *I Got a Right to Sing the Blues*, *Blues in the Night*, and *Come Rain or Come Shine*. Features outstanding performances by Barbra Streisand, Lena Horne, Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, Mel Tormé, Tony Bennett and others, as well as rare recordings of Harold Arlen. Includes interviews with Ira Gershwin, Fayard Nicholas, E.Y. Harburg, Johnny Mercer and others.

Guest: Musician Jordan Klapman.

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THE STAR HIDDEN IN THE BACKLANDS**CANADIAN PREMIERE****BRAZIL 2005, 85 min****Portuguese****Directors: Elaine Eiger, Luize Valente****Screening: Wednesday May 10, 3:00 PM (BC)**

In rural Brazil there are people, the Marranos, who practice the Catholic religion but continue to carry on certain traditions that can only be explained by the fact that their ancestors were Jewish. They arrived in Brazil over 200 years ago, and settled in remote regions of the country to escape the fires of the Inquisition sweeping through Europe. Now, some of these people are beginning to question their traditions and are looking to rejoin their Jewish co-religionists. This fascinating film introduces a young doctor, a retired engineer, a black policeman, and an extremely devoted priest, all of whom were born into Christian families but who practice Judaism.

Guest: Co-Director Elaine Eiger.

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STEEL TOES**CANADA 2006, 100 min****Directors: David Gow and Mark Adam****Writer: David Gow****Cast: David Strathairn, Andrew Walker,****Marina Orsini, Ron Lea****Screening: Wednesday May 10, 9:30 PM (BC)**

Academy Award® nominee David Strathairn (Good Night, and Good Luck) stars as Danny Dunkelmann, a liberal Jewish attorney who defends a Neo-Nazi skinhead charged with the racially motivated murder of an East Indian immigrant. His deep involvement in the trial forces him to revisit his inherited Jewish values and faith. Director and writer David Gow's script, which is based on his play Cherry Docs, avoids clichés and reveals an honest, emotional depth.

Guest invited.

Generously sponsored by:



STRANGE FRUIT 🎵

USA 2001, 57 min

Director: Joel Katz

Screening: Tuesday May 9, 4:00 PM (AG)



The fascinating story behind “Strange Fruit,” the haunting song depicting the lynching of Blacks in the American South that was made famous by Billie Holiday in 1939. A symbol of social justice for African-Americans, it was penned by Abel Meeropol, a Jewish school-teacher from the Bronx, under the pseudonym Lewis Allan. A vivid portrait of the songwriter and the times, the film illustrates how Jews and African Americans came together to form a powerful political alliance through music. In the racial divide of the US, Meeropol and Holiday met at Barney Josephson’s Café Society—New York’s first truly integrated nightclub outside of Harlem. McCarthyism, the civil rights movement and a surprising connection to Ethel and Julius Rosenberg serve as backdrop to this engrossing tribute to a song, its writer and its legacy.

Guest: Author Jeffrey Melnick.

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STRIKE

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2005, 90 min

Hebrew

Directors: Asaf Sudry & Amir Tausinger

Screening: Wednesday May 10, Noon (AG)



A small group of workers at Haifa Chemicals, a plant in southern Israel, decide they want to form a union to improve working conditions. But it’s not an easy task with labour-capital relations in modern day Israel. Their plant’s owner, Arie Genger, a close friend of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, would rather close down the plant than see the workers unite. Genger is used to getting his way, and this time, he’s aided by hired goons and the police. This compelling documentary is a chronicle of the courageous attempt of the determined workers to unite against all odds.

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SUMMER STORY (SIPPUR KAYITZ)**ISRAEL 2004, 76 min****Hebrew****Director & Writer: Shmuel Haimovich****Cast: Kosta Kaplan, Aya Koren, Tiki Eyzor****Sunday May 14, 11:00 AM (BC)**

During the raging war in Lebanon in 1982, 13-year-old Gal is forced to act as a postman in a small village. His travels allow him to come in contact with many of those people directly affected: the Postmistress who longs for the return of her son from Lebanon; a neighbour in hiding from service; and finally, Haya, a young, ailing girl who lives for the letters of her soldier boyfriend. As a friendship blossoms between the two, the now lovestruck Gal sets out on a mission to retrieve a photo of Haya's mystery man, in the wake of her failing health and the dangers of war. A tender coming-of-age story, this lovely and gentle film will tug at the heart.

With**THE RED TOY****ISRAEL 2005, 13 min****Director: Dani Rosenberg**

A silent film about a Palestinian boy who loses a toy that ends up on a journey through the hands of the denizens of his Jerusalem neighbourhood.

TELL ME A RIDDLE**USA 1980, 90 min****Director: Lee Grant****Writers: Joyce Eliason, Alev Lytle****Cast: Melvyn Douglas, Lila Kedrova, Bob Elross,****Brooke Adams, Dolores Dorn, Lili Valentyn****Screening: Sunday May 14, Noon (AG)**

Elderly couple David (Melvyn Douglas) and Eva (Lila Kedrova) are former socialists who have grown alienated from one another over the years of their marriage. Eva, in particular, finds comfort only in her books and her memories of Russia. Tender and inspiring, this landmark film, based on the novella by Tillie Olsen, offers a strong female perspective as it follows the couple on a cross-country reunion with their children, particularly their free-spirited granddaughter (Brooke Adams). Rarely in cinema has the relationship of an older couple been treated with such compassion and honesty. We gratefully acknowledge co-producer Rachel Lyon in helping us locate a print of this hard-to-find gem.

Guest: Director Lee Grant (See Sunday 2:00 PM).**Spotlight on Lee Grant generously sponsored by MARSHA BRONFMAN.**

A TREASURE IN AUSCHWITZ

TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2005, 78 min

Director: Yahaly Gat

Screening: Thursday May 11, 1:00 PM (BC)



Mystery and intrigue are offered in abundance in this thoroughly fascinating documentary that follows narrator and treasure hunter Yariv Nornberg on his search for a cache of sacred Torah scrolls purported to be buried in the grounds of a once existing synagogue, on the site of the Auschwitz death camp. The film begins with Nornberg's travels and then goes backwards in time to see how he researched and planned his exhaustive search. Along the way, painful memories resurface as stories of the terror at Auschwitz are retold, making the pursuit of the sacred treasure all the more vital and important.

Guest: Margaret Darmanin from St. Joseph's College School.

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TWO LIVES OF EVA

FRANCE 2005, 85 min

French, German, English, Polish

Director: Esther Hoffenberg

Screening: Wednesday May 10, 1:00 PM (BC)



Esther Hoffenberg sets off on a frightening and revelatory journey to understand her late mother's mental illness in this delicate, moving documentary. Eva Hoffenberg is a complex character —the daughter of a German industrialist in Poland who became a Jewish wife and mother in France. A child of great privilege in Poland, Eva converted to Judaism upon marriage to the director's father Sam, a survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto. As revelations surface, a chilling, fractured picture begins to appear of this fascinating woman, plagued by the nightmare of mental illness and suppressed memories.

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THE TWO OF US**FRANCE 1967, 90 min****French****Director: Claude Berri****Writers: Claude Berri, Gerard Brach, Michal Rivelin****Cast: Michel Simon, Alain Cohen, Charles Denner****Screening: Thursday May 11, 9:30 PM (BC)**

A classic and heartwarming comedy about a young Jewish boy sent to live on a farm in order to avoid being rounded up by the Vichy government. This is Claude Berri's (Jean de Florette) first feature film and is based on his own experiences during the War. A crusty old farmer is a rabid anti-Semite who slowly warms up to the boy's charming personality. This is a newly struck print made from the original negative and is a must-see film if you haven't already seen it and a must-see-again film if you have. In black and white.

Guest: Actor Alain Cohen.

Generously sponsored by LINDA & WILL HECHTER.

UNTIL TOMORROW COMES**ISRAEL 2005, 65 min****Hebrew, Arabic****Director: David Deri****Writers: Ori Weisbrod, David Deri****Cast: Raymond Abecassis, Yael Abecassis,****Ruhama Malka, Uri Gabriel****Screening: Friday May 12, 1:00 PM (BC)**

Israeli comedy about a dramatic week in the life of Lillian, the owner of a beauty salon in a small town in southern Israel. She faces many problems with stoic courage: a mother whose mental health is deteriorating; a daughter facing a marital crisis; and a love-struck police officer whom she cannot rebuff. Despite everything, Lillian carries on hoping to find better days ahead. Produced by Eran Riklis (Syrian Bride).

With

KLEINEH MIRIAM'L**ISRAEL 2005, 20 min****Hebrew, Yiddish****Writer and Director: Yael Reuveni**

Dalia Friedland (Yana's Friends) gives a moving performance as a forgotten Yiddish star living in an Israeli retirement home, struggling to find dignity. A worthwhile companion piece to In the Land of the Jews. (May 7, 11:00 AM, (BC).

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WE WANT THE LIGHT

CANADIAN PREMIERE

GREAT BRITAIN 2004, 59 min

English, German, French

Director: Christopher Nupen

Screening: Thursday May 11, 6:00 PM (AG)



Christopher Nupen's award-winning documentary is an illuminating look at the relationship between Jews and Germans through the prism of music. Provocative and inspirational, it expertly explores three themes: the role of German-Jewish composers, such as Felix Mendelssohn, in the assimilated cultural life of Jews in Germany; the notorious anti-Semitic ideology of Richard Wagner; and the transformative power of music exemplified by the remarkable Alice Sommer Herz, a 98-year-old Theresienstadt survivor who continues to practice piano two and a half hours a day. Includes musical selections by Mahler, Bach, Brahms, Schoenberg and many others, performed by The Gürzenich Orchestra of Cologne, conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy. Interviewees include Daniel Barenboim, Zubin Mehta, Itzhak Perlman and Pinchas Zukerman among others.

DVD of the Year Award (Documentary Category), 2005.
Jewish Cultural Award for Film and Television, 2004.
Best Editing, New York Film and Television Festival.
Guest: Director Christopher Nupen.

THE WEIDER BROTHERS: MEN OF IRON

CANADA 1999, 50 min

Directors: Marrin Canell, Ted Remerowski

Screening: Thursday May 11, 5:00 PM (BC)



An intimate, behind-the-scenes profile of Joe and Ben Weider, who, despite limited means and education, revolutionized the sport of bodybuilding and created a worldwide fitness and health empire. From the streets of Montreal to the top of the world, the Weider brothers' achievements epitomize the Jewish Canadian dream.

Guest: Ben Weider.

With

DORCHESTER STREET

CANADA 2006, 9 min

Director: Sarah Lazarovic

The history of Montreal's Dorchester Street district is presented in this lovely hybrid of documentary and animation.

WINNING WITH MIKI**CANADIAN PREMIERE****ISRAEL 2005, 76 min****Hebrew****Director: Ori Inbar****Writer: Mirit Yossipov****Cast: Noy Gur, Rami Heuberger, Orna Banai****Ticketed Free Screening: Sunday May 7, Noon (AG)**

Take a tomboy with basketball skills, an angry former basketball star, and some magical realism courtesy of a fairy godmother, and you get a charming story of a young girl's determination to rise above sexism and personal hurdles. After she is refused a spot on the high school basketball team, feisty Miki sets about proving the team wrong. This is one inspiring film that proves that hard work and a little girl power can take you to the top.

At this screening subtitles will be read by Gail Kerbel.

With

SUNDAY SCHOOL LOCKOUT**CANADA 2006, 5 min****Director: Turner Hoffman**

This precious documentary deals with how a group of kids are affected when their Sunday Hebrew school is cancelled. A true gem that comes courtesy of the youngest filmmaker in the history of the Festival.

Guest: Director Turner Hoffman and the cast of Sunday School Lockout.

**WRESTLING WITH ANGELS:
PLAYWRIGHT TONY KUSHNER****CANADIAN PREMIERE****USA 2006, 102 min****Director: Freida Lee Mock****Screening: Sunday May 7, 7:00 PM (BC)**

One of the world's greatest living playwrights, Tony Kushner (*Angels in America*) has inspired and moved many with his Tony and Pulitzer prize winning plays. But he is also an articulate and compassionate political activist. As an openly gay Jewish man from the American South, Kushner has used his talents to be an advocate for social justice on many fronts. Academy Award®-winning director Freida Lee Mock has created a loving, cinematic portrait featuring testimonials and appearances from Kushner's friends and colleagues, including Maurice Sendak (his collaborator on the book and opera *Brundibar*), Meryl Streep and Mike Nichols, as well as an abundance of excerpts from his work.

Guest: Director Freida Lee Mock.

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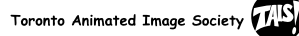
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