

15TH ANNUAL

TORONTO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

MAY 5-13

TJFF.COM





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|---|--|

| MAY 2007 | 5 SATURDAY | 6 SUNDAY | 7 MONDAY | 8 TUESDAY |
|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 10:00 AM | | | | AG · PAPER CLIPS |
| 11:00 AM | | AG · PAUL BUHLE TALK BC · GRANDPA SPEAK TO ME IN RUSSIAN | | |
| 12:00 NOON | | AG 12:15 · MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT | AG · SAVED BY DEPORTATION | AG · AWAKE AND SING! |
| 1:00 PM | | BC · YIDDISH THEATRE: A LOVE STORY | BC · DAY & NIGHT | BC · SONIA |
| 2:00 PM | | AG 2:30 · FILM FANATIC | AG · ONCE A NAZI... | AG · SECRET COURAGE |
| 3:00 PM | | BC · KINNERT LIVES | BC · MORE THAN 1000 WORDS · SG · A TICKLE IN THE HEART | BC · A HEBREW LESSON SG · NINA'S JOURNEY |
| 4:00 PM | | AG · HATS OF JERUSALEM | AG · HOLIDAY SONG | AG · A CANADIAN IN LOVE |
| 5:00 PM | | BC · SIX DAYS IN JUNE | BC · FURY OF AN ENTIRE WORLD | BC 5:30 · AS SEEN THROUGH THESE EYES |
| 6:00 PM | | AG · DARIEN DILEMMA | AG · PAPER CLIP: RIDE TO REMEMBER SG · CEMETERY CLUB | AG · FILM CLASS SG · THE BUBBLE |
| 7:00 PM | | BC 7:30 · NINA'S JOURNEY | BC · SWEET MUD | BC 7:30 · FOUR WEEKS IN JUNE |
| 8:00 PM | | AG 8:15 · FORGOTTEN REFUGEES | SG 8:30 · THREE MOTHERS AG · MATTER OF TIME | AG 8:15 · THE MAN FROM MUNKACS SG 8:30 · SWEET MUD |
| 9:00 PM | BC 9:30 · THE YEAR MY PARENTS WENT ON VACATION | BC 9:45 · KING OF BEGGARS | BC · COMME T'Y ES BELLE | BC 9:45 · FIRST ZIONIST BUNNY |
| 10:00 PM | | | | AG 10:15 · BRAVE OLD WORLD |
| 12:00 MIDNIGHT | | | | |

| 9 WEDNESDAY | 10 THURSDAY | 11 FRIDAY | 12 SATURDAY | 13 SUNDAY |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------|---|
| AG · PAPER CLIPS | | | | |
| | | | | BC · OUR CHILDREN |
| AG · OPEN EYE OPEN I | AG · MISS UNIVERSE 1929 | AG · I CAN GET IT FOR YOU WHOLESALE | | AG · NONE BUT THE LONELY HEART |
| BC · YOEL, ISRAEL AND THE PASHKAVILS | BC · THE LONGING | BC · STREETS OF JERUSALEM | | BC · KIKE LIKE ME SG · DEAR MR. WALDMAN |
| AG · SOUTH WIND ON HILTON BEACH | AG · ONE OF THE LAST | AG · DEAR MR. WALDMAN | | AG 2:30 · YIDDISH SOUL |
| BC · LOVE & DANCE SG · COMME T'Y ES BELLE | BC · NOT ALL WERE MURDERERS SG · GLOOMY SUNDAY | BC · M. ROSENTHALIS - SELF PORTRAIT + DIARY OF NICLAUS GHEILER | | BC · THE GREAT COMMUNIST BANK ROBBERY SG · SOMEONE TO RUN WITH |
| AG · THE FRONT | AG · PORGY AND BESS | AG · PAUL ROBESON | | AG 4:30 · SUMMER OF DOLPHINS |
| BC · HANUZKA | BC 5:15 · CHEZ SCHWARTZ | BC · NAF STREET KID | | BC · FAMILY LAW |
| AG · NUREMBURG: NAZIS FACING THEIR CRIMES SG · CARA DE QUESO | AG · HITLER'S JEWISH SOLDIERS SG · LOVE & DANCE | | | |
| BC · CLOSE TO HOME | BC 7:15 · THE BUBBLE | | | BC 7:30 · THE RAPE OF EUROPA |
| SG 8:30 · FOUR WEEKS IN JUNE | AG · MADRID BEFORE HANITA SG 8:30 · CLOSE TO HOME | | | |
| BC · ANGELA | BC 9:30 · SOMEONE TO RUN WITH | | BC 9:15 · TIED HANDS | |
| AG · A FACE IN THE CROWD | AG · FORCE OF EVIL | | AG · PARIS BLUES | |
| | | | BC · GOSPEL SONGS OF BOB DYLAN | |

HELEN ZUKERMAN

Executive Director



When we last met, the TJFF was preparing to host the International Conference of Jewish Film Festivals. About 40 representatives from as far away as Poland came to share their experiences and to learn. Our mission was to introduce the participants to the wealth of Jewish content filmmaking expertise in Canada. Many of the delegates were American and were simply blown away by Toronto, by the Festival Program and by the audiences. One of the workshops we hosted was called “Standing Out in a Crowded World.” Glen Hunt from Dentsu, (the people that created our commercials and the “Discover Your Inner Jew” ad campaign) and I explained that in a city, which is home to over 70 film festivals in any given year, one has to be different to get noticed. Being different also means taking risks.

The reaction we got from both our ads and our commercials was a delightful surprise. Our advertising campaign suggested that we were not always serious, that we were accessible and fun. Film lovers learned we could satisfy diverse interests and our gutsy Rhythm & Jews program brought us people of every age, size, shape and colour.

Another result of this unique campaign was that our “Outed” commercial became part of “The World’s Funniest Commercials,” a traveling television program hosted by Kevin

Nealon. We are now seen around the world on television, on YouTube and on websites devoted to the world’s funniest commercials.

Throughout 2006, we screened the film Paperclips with a survivor in attendance, to over 3000 mostly non-Jewish students. Because film can have such an influence as a teaching tool and as an art form, we created FilmMatters, with the enthusiastic support of The Trillium Foundation. They awarded us a generous grant to select films, create study guides and to engage students with films that encourage dialogue and promote respect among diverse cultures. We have always worked to create this dialogue at the Festival, but now we take it to the next generation. When I began my work with the Festival, my young daughters were at the films; now I have the pleasure of seeing my grandchildren coming. And so we march along!

This year, thanks to the visibility we got internationally from Jewish Film Festival producers, our unique marketing strategy and our innovative programming, we are at a new place – an overnight success in only 15 years! All of you have participated in the creation and success of a unique Festival that includes cookies while you wait in line, herring on Wednesdays, and this year – Schwartz’s Montreal smoked meat served by the Schwartz people themselves.

Whether you come to see “Schreibers in Hollywood,” the “Rhythm & Jews” series, or any other individual event, you are sure to have a great Festival experience. It remains my pleasure to join you on this wonderful journey through the world of film.

On a final note, I was saddened to learn of board member Gordie Wolfe’s passing on April 7. He spent his life serving the Jewish community. To honour his memory, we dedicate this year’s Festival to Gordie.

Photo Credit: Aviva Zukerman Schure

LARRY ANKLEWICZ

Programme Coordinator



The films this year cover a wide range of topics and subject matter – from the pain and suffering undergone by a victim of a terrorist attack (Kinneret Lives), to our Surf & Turf combo about the first surfers in Israel (South Wind At Hilton Beach) and Montreal's most famous deli (Chez Schwartz); from stories about immigrants in Israel learning to integrate into new surroundings (Hebrew Lesson), to a stunning documentary about the art looted by the Nazis during World War Two (Rape of Europa).

We also have some of the best fiction films I have seen in a long time. Our opening film, *The Year My Parents Went On Vacation*, comes to us from Brazil, by way of the Berlin International Film Festival. From Israel we have *Close To Home*, which deals with two young women soldiers patrolling the streets of Jerusalem; *Sweet Mud* takes us back to the kibbutz of the 1970s; *Love and Dance* is set at a school that teaches ballroom dancing; and *King of Beggars* is a romp along the lines of Mel Brooks' *Robin Hood: Men In Tights*, but with Jewish brigands in the forests of 16th century Russia.

Every year there are a few films that seem to strike especially close to home.

Yiddish Soul is a documentary chronicling the revival of Yiddish music in Europe today.

Having grown up in a Yiddish speaking home, I took to this film immediately. It features some wonderful musical performances by Karsten Troyke and Shura Lipovsky. Shura will appear after the screening to do a live concert.

Saved By Deportation is the first film I have seen about the Jews who fled the Nazis and wound up in the Soviet Union. They were arrested and eventually ended up in the Soviet republics of central Asia. This saved the lives of over 200,000 Polish Jews, including my own parents.

Yet another documentary that touched me was *Paper Clip: A Ride To Remember*. The original Paper Clips was an inspirational film that we are continuing to show this year. This new film tells about a group of Jewish motorcyclists from Toronto riding down to Whitwell, Tennessee to visit the Holocaust memorial built by students of that small southern town.

This is only a tiny sampling of the films available at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival this year. You can savour over 90 films from some 16 different countries. And we've also made it easier for everyone to take part in the Festival. In addition to our locations at the Bloor Cinema (Bloor & Bathurst) and the Al Green Theatre (Bloor & Spadina) we will also be showing films at the Sheppard Grande (Sheppard and Yonge).

So sit back and enjoy!

Tickets are required for these free events and screenings and are available for pick up at the festival box office in the Miles Nadal JCC.

14 **AWAKE AND SING!** ✍

Tue. May 8 ▶ Noon ▶ AG

Clifford Odets' depiction of three generations of a Jewish family during depression-era America authentically and poetically captures the complexity and depth of their lives. A rare television version of Odets' 1935 groundbreaking play.

14 **BRAVE OLD WORLD – LIVE IN CONCERT**

Tue. May 8 ▶ 10:15pm ▶ AG

World-renowned klezmer band Brave Old World will enthrall you with their heady mix of original and traditional music in a film that captures their onstage energy at Montreal's Oscar Peterson Hall.

40 **PAPER CLIPS**

Tue. May 8 ▶ 10:00am ▶ AG

Wed. May 9 ▶ 10:00am ▶ AG

Be part of an important film that changed the lives of a whole town. An enlightening, free programme for groups and schools.

Group bookings can be made for this film by calling the TJFF office at 416-324-9121.

42 **PAUL BUHLE TALK – JEWISH HOLLYWOOD AND THE BLACKLIST: THE MEMORY THAT WON'T GO AWAY** ✍

Sun. May 6 ▶ 11:00am ▶ AG

Renowned author/editor (including a biography of Abraham Polonsky and Jews and American Popular Culture) and Brown University lecturer Paul Buhle describes the generation of left-leaning Hollywood writers who brought Yiddishkayt and "social themes" into film, pioneered noir, and suffered the consequences. A stimulating introduction to our Schreibers in Hollywood series.

42 **PAUL ROBESON**

Fri. May 11 ▶ 4:00pm ▶ AG

A rare recorded version of actor James Earl Jones' electrifying one-man show chronicling the turbulent life of Robeson. Singer/actor Paul Robeson's music and political activism spoke to the hearts of Jews all over the world. Jones' tour de force mixes songs and stories illustrating Robeson's artistic achievements as well as his fight against the ill treatment accorded him by the United States.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Join us this year for two special added presentations. Following the film, *Man from Munkács*, (p. 33) we present a performance by the Budapest Klezmer Band. Through arrangements composed by the founder and musical director of the ensemble, Ferenc Jávori, who grew up in the former Munkács (Munkacevo, now part of the Ukraine) you will be transported back in time to Central and Eastern Europe, when traditional Jewish music was part of the community's cultural fabric.

And following the film *Yiddish Soul* (p. 49), stick around for Holland's Shura Lipovsky who is one of the best known singers of Yiddish/Jewish songs in Europe. This acclaimed recording artist has sung and taught in Europe, Russia, the United States and Canada. She will be accompanied by Brian Katz and Martin van de Ven, two of Toronto's leading jazz and klezmer musicians.

SCHREIBERS IN HOLLYWOOD: THE SCREENWRITERS

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival's special 2007 series celebrates the art of the screenwriter.

Since writing is about storytelling, what better place to start than at the beginning? *Schreibers in Hollywood* is a celebration of some of the seminal, iconic Jewish screenwriters of Hollywood's early years. The series consists of nine films by legendary screenwriters *Clifford Odets*, *Paddy Chayefsky*, *Walter Bernstein*, *Abraham Polonsky*, and *Budd Schulberg*. Esteemed author/lecturer Paul Buhle kicks things off with a fascinating, free talk, on Sunday May 6 at 11:00 AM, (see page 42 for details).

Film is considered to be a collaborative art. The director, however, is usually thought to occupy the top rung of the hierarchy. This "auteur" theory has been the subject of spirited debate by film scholars. David Kipen's recent book, "The Schreiber Theory: A Radical Rewrite of American Film History" provided inspiration for the TJFF series. Kipen argues that the screenwriter is the most indispensable person involved in the making of movies, and he derives his theory from the Yiddish word for writer:

Auteurism represented a masterstroke of nomenclature. Suddenly, a generation of film geeks could now impress girls, and themselves, by dropping a little French into the conversation...If not "a theory of screenwriters," then what? Screenwriterism, Scenarism? Somehow these lack the exotic whiff that only a foreign language can confer. But if not French, what? Yiddish, that's what. What language could better christen a script-based theory of film criticism than the mother tongue of many of America's first screenwriters... (David Kipen, The Schreiber Theory)

The question of who is the most important creative force behind a film may be a matter of discussion, but there's no denying

the fact that the role of the screenwriter has been minimized.

The writers in this series were selected for the depth and intelligence of their writing and the Jewish sensibilities that crept into their work, either overtly, or through radical, left-leaning and humanist themes that recur throughout their careers. These Jewish New Yorkers (except for Odets, who was born in Philadelphia) brought wit and the cadence of the urban street to the screen, as well as the values inherent in their backgrounds. Their films were about "something" – moral and political issues, the complexity of personal relationships, humanist ideals and social justice – all embodied in films that were entertaining and compelling.

They were novelists and/or playwrights or journal contributors before they got the call to Hollywood. Every one of them also excelled at their craft in the Golden Age of Television. With the exception of Paddy Chayefsky, they were victimized by the blacklist during the McCarthy era.

What they managed to achieve in Hollywood is quite remarkable and radical, given their lack of creative control and the meddling of conservative studio heads who were primarily interested in the commercial bottom line. Their films influenced future generations, including such writers as David Mamet, Robert Towne, Tony Kushner and the Coen Brothers.

The TJFF focused its selection on rare, difficult-to-find titles. There are, of course, other films as well as other wonderful screenwriters to explore (Ben Hecht, Julius Epstein – to name just a couple), not to mention the extensive roster of contemporary Jewish screenwriters.

We hope we've whet your appetite.

Ellie Skrow

Curator, Special Programmes

CLIFFORD ODETS (1906–1963)

A voice and style distinctive for its use of poetic dialogue, combined with socialist politics, made Clifford Odets one of the most important and celebrated writers of the American theatre in the 1930s. After starting out as an actor, Odets co-founded the Group Theatre, renowned for its plays about working class people. *Awake and Sing!** and *Paradise Lost* offered a multi-layered depiction of three generations of a Jewish family living in the Bronx during the Depression. Among his credits: *The General Died at Dawn*, *The Big Knife*, *None But the Lonely Heart**, *Clash by Night*, *The Country Girl*, *Humoresque* and *Sweet Smell of Success*. Odets' experience as a screenwriter in Hollywood has been cited as the inspiration for the Coen Brothers' *Barton Fink*.

SIDNEY AARON "PADDY" CHAYEFSKY (1923–1981)

"I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it any more." One of the most legendary, oft repeated quotes from film (*Network*) was penned by Paddy Chayefsky. He is the only person to have won three solo Academy Awards® for screenwriting. Originally intending to pursue a career as a stand-up comic, Chayefsky's stories and characters were infused with a remarkable humanism and humour. In the era of live television, *Marty* and *Middle of the Night**, each dealing with themes of loneliness and love, enjoyed phenomenal success and were turned into films. Later in his career, Chayefsky's work became darker and more satirical. Other credits include: *Holiday Song**, *Gideon*, *The Catered Affair*, *The Goddess*, *The Hospital* and *The Americanization of Emily*.

BUDD SCHULBERG (1914–)

Novelist and screenwriter Budd Schulberg is the son of B.P. Schulberg, former head of Paramount Pictures. His 1941 novel *What Makes Sammy Run?* about a ruthless kid from the Lower East Side and his spectacular rise in Hollywood, was adapted into a treasured television production. Schulberg is perhaps best known for his Academy Award®-winning *On the Waterfront*. His other credits include *A Face in the Crowd** and *Wind Across the Everglades*. During World War Two, Schulberg and his brother Stuart were members of John Ford's docu-

mentary unit and were put in charge of photographic evidence for the Nuremberg trials. Schulberg currently lives in New York.

WALTER BERNSTEIN (1919–)

Walter Bernstein started his career in television, and for many years was a contributor to the *New Yorker* magazine. He is perhaps best known for the extraordinary *Fail Safe* as well as *The Front**, the latter largely based on Bernstein's own experience as a blacklisted writer in the 50s. For a decade following his blacklisting, Bernstein's work was attributed to others. Other credits include: *Paris Blues**, *The Molly Maguires*, *Semi-Tough*, *Yanks*, *The Magnificent Seven* and *The Train* (the latter two uncredited). Bernstein was adjunct professor of screenwriting at Columbia University and is the recipient of a Writers Guild Award for lifetime achievement. His book, *"Inside Out: A Memoir of the Blacklist"* was acclaimed as one of the wittiest and insightful accounts of that painful era. He currently lives in New York.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN POLONSKY (1910–1999)

Abraham Polonsky was heavily influenced by his Russian immigrant father's socialist leanings. A novelist and director, as well as a lawyer, a playwright, radio script and essay writer, Polonsky is perhaps best known for his films *Body and Soul*, *Force of Evil**, *I Can Get It For You Wholesale**, *Romance of a Horsethief*, *Madigan*, and *Tell Them Willie Boy is Here*. Much of Polonsky's work deals with the themes of capitalism as a corruptive influence, and it's no surprise that he was blacklisted during the 50s witch hunt. One tidbit: in the 60s Polonsky was story editor for the CBC television series *Seaway*.

**Films Screening in the
Schreibers in Hollywood series*

SCHREIBERS IN HOLLYWOOD ✍

- 14 **AWAKE AND SING!**
(1972, TV VERSION OF 1935 PLAY)
- 20 **A FACE IN THE CROWD** (1957)
- 22 **FORCE OF EVIL** (1949)
- 24 **THE FRONT**
(1976, ABOUT 50s McCARTHY ERA)
- 29 **HOLIDAY SONG** (1952, TV)
- 29 **I CAN GET IT FOR YOU WHOLESAL**
(1951)
- 34 **MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT** (1959)
- 37 **NONE BUT THE LONELY HEART** (1944)
- 41 **PARIS BLUES** (1961) 🎵
- 42 **PAUL BUHLE TALK**

RHYTHM & JEWS – THE SEQUEL 🎵

Last year's "Rhythm & Jews" series, tracing the connection between Jewish and African-American music, was a phenomenal success. This year we're screening four brand new titles as a sequel spin-off: Gotta Serve Somebody: The Gospel Songs of Bob Dylan; Porgy and Bess: An American Voice; Paul Robeson (starring James Earl Jones), and Paris Blues (starring Paul Newman and Sidney Poitier). Don't miss them!

25 **GOTTA SERVE SOMEBODY: THE
GOSPEL SONGS OF BOB DYLAN**

41 **PARIS BLUES** ✍

42 **PAUL ROBESON**

43 **PORGY AND BESS:
AN AMERICAN VOICE**

SPOTLIGHT ON SEPHARDIM ★

This year the Toronto Jewish Film Festival is doing a Spotlight on Sephardic Jews, consisting of three films: The Forgotten Refugees; A Matter of Time and The Longing. Author and York University professor Sarah Taieb-Carlen will speak before the screening of The Forgotten Refugees to introduce this year's Spotlight.

23 **THE FORGOTTEN REFUGEES**

31 **THE LONGING**

34 **A MATTER OF TIME**

THE YEAR MY PARENTS WENT ON VACATION

CANADIAN PREMIERE

BRAZIL 2006, 104 min

Portuguese

Director: Cao Hamburger

Sat. May 5 ▶ 9:30pm ▶ BC



Set amidst the backdrop of a World Cup crazy 1970s Brazil, this poignant coming of age film tells the story of 11-year-old Mauro, a child of communist parents who are secretly on the run from the police. Mauro is told that his parents are going on vacation and will return by the start of World Cup season. In the interim, he will stay with his estranged paternal grandfather in Sao Paulo. Upon arrival, Mauro learns that his grandfather has passed away and he is taken in by the grandfather's curmudgeonly neighbour Shlomo. Mauro and Shlomo quickly butt heads, as the stubborn and precocious young man waits anxiously for his parents' return. *The Year My Parents Went On Vacation* features an assured debut performance from child actor Michel Joelsas as a boy struggling to adapt to the world around him during a time of political upheaval.

Opening Night generously sponsored by:



RAPE OF EUROPA

TORONTO PREMIERE

USA 2006, 117 min

Directors: Richard Berge,

Nicole Newnham, Bonni Cohen

Sun. May 13 ▶ 7:30pm ▶ BC



A stunning and in-depth look into the systematic theft and destruction of art at the hands of the Nazis, and the journey to rescue and retrieve these lost and missing treasures. The film spans seven countries and features interviews with experts as well as rare archival footage. *The Rape of Europe* is an epic chronicle that charts the twelve-year attempt to eradicate the history of Jewish art and culture, and the efforts of Monument Officers from the United States Army, archivists and art lovers to track down and return these stolen items to their rightful owners. The film is narrated by Oscar® nominated actress Joan Allen. Based on the acclaimed book by Lynn H. Nicholas.

Guests: *Bonnie Czegledi, an informational and cultural heritage lawyer in Toronto and Monument Officer, Harry Ettlinger.*

Closing Night generously sponsored by:



ANGELA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

ITALY 2005, 90 min

Italian

Directors: Andrea Frazzi, Antonio Frazzi

Wed. May 9 ▶ 9:00pm ▶ BC



Forbidden romance and personal sacrifice are at the core of this poignant and suspenseful story of one woman's journey to save the life of her beloved. Angela, a single mother, is forced to trade on the black market in order to feed her son during World War Two. At the desperate urging of her Jewish neighbour, she reluctantly agrees to harbor his only son, Davide. An unexpected love blossoms between the two, only to be shattered when Davide sets out to join the resistance movement and is captured. Using her powers of coercion, Angela sets off a chain of events that force her to make decisions that test every fibre of her being.

AS SEEN THROUGH THESE EYES

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

USA 2007, 70 min

Director: Hilary Helstein

Tue. May 8 ▶ 5:30pm ▶ BC



A beautifully rendered film that lets Holocaust survivors tell their stories through the art they created during their imprisonment in concentration camps. Using a combination of interviews, photographs, archival footage and stunning artwork, we hear from these "defiant witnesses who refused to go quietly and fought back with the only weapons they had": paint brushes, charcoal and pencils. Among the artists interviewed are Samuel Bak, Simon Wiesenthal, Ela Weissberger, and others, including Karl Stojka, one of the many Gypsies who the Nazis marked for annihilation. Maya Angelou movingly narrates.

Guests: Director Hilary Helstein and Survivor/Artist, Ela Weissberger, who appears in the film

Generously sponsored by:



AWAKE AND SING! ✂

USA 1972, 100 min

Directors: Robert Hopkins, Norman Lloyd

Writer: Clifford Odets, adapted
from his play by the same name

Cast: Ruth Storey, Walter Matthau, Felicia
Farr, Leo Fuchs, Robert Lipton, Ron Rifkin,
Martin Ritt, Milton Selzer, John Myhers

Tue. May 8 ▶ Noon ▶ AG ▶ Free



Odets' depiction of three generations of a Jewish family during depression-era America authentically and poetically captures the complexity and depth of their lives. This is a television version of Odets' 1935 groundbreaking play that was first performed by the legendary Group Theater. Taking its title from a line from Isaiah, "Awake and sing, ye that dwell in the dust..." the film blends themes that are political – the corruptive influence of capitalism and the degradation of poverty – with the personal loneliness and longings, hopes and dreams of each of its protagonists. Walter Matthau is a standout as the cynical realist, Moe Axelrod. Also watch for director Martin Ritt (*The Front*, *Paris Blues*) in a small role.

Weekday matinees presented by:

» TORONTO STAR «

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SPONSOR

*The Schreibers in Hollywood Series is
made possible by the generous support of:
Shirley Granovsky*

BRAVE OLD WORLD – LIVE IN CONCERT

WORLD PREMIERE

CANADA 2006, 120 min

Director: David Kaufman

Tue. May 8 ▶ 10:15pm ▶ AG ▶ Free



World-renowned klezmer band Brave Old World is brought to the screen with all of the power of its music by director David Kaufman. Featuring a mix of original and traditional music, *Brave Old World – Live in Concert*, is a sterling example of this group's high level of musicianship that is sure to enthrall fans old and new. Shot at a live concert in Montreal's Oscar Peterson Hall.

Guest: Director David Kaufman

THE BUBBLE

ISRAEL 2006, 117 min

Hebrew

Director: Eytan Fox

Tue. May 8 ▶ 6:00pm ▶ SG

Thu. May 10 ▶ 7:15pm ▶ BC



The follow-up to Eytan Fox's acclaimed hit, *Walk On Water*, this new film follows the lives of a group of Israeli 20-something room-mates, Lulu, Yali and Noam – each searching for love in the most unlikely places. Timely questions arise as a result of these potentially complicated new relationships: Will Lulu ignore her chance at love? Can Yali overcome his political conflicts to pursue an aggressive suitor? Will burgeoning love be lost for Noam and his Palestinian lover Ashraf, or will they be forced to separate amidst the political tensions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

***WARNING:** This film contains sexual scenes and coarse language.*

A CANADIAN IN LOVE

WORLD PREMIERE

UK 2006, 55 min

Director: Sue Read

Tue. May 8 ▶ 4:00pm ▶ AG



Ever wonder who the Isabel Bader Theatre was named for? Here is the answer. Isabel and Dr. Alfred Bader's love began with a chance meeting aboard a ship from Quebec to London. Despite insurmountable odds and complicated circumstances, their relationship spanned several decades. This remarkable and moving story stretches across religious lines and divisions, and is told with assuredness and style by veteran British documentarian Sue Read.

Guest invited.

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

Weekday matinees presented by:

TORONTO STAR

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CARA DE QUESO (CHEESECAKE)

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

ARGENTINA 2006, 90 min

Spanish

Director: Ariel Winograd

Wed. May 9 ▶ 6:00pm ▶ SG



First time director Ariel Winograd has chosen to draw upon his own childhood. Young Ariel must suffer through a summer of that most dreaded and difficult of times: puberty. Fending off the neighbourhood bully, experiencing a first crush and the nagging presence of parents, are just some of the things our young protagonist and his motley band of friends must deal with. Cara De Queso will remind many viewers of Meatballs, while remaining refreshingly original.

THE CEMETERY CLUB

ISRAEL 2006, 90 min

Hebrew

Director: Tali Shemesh

Mon. May 7 ▶ 6:00pm ▶ SG



For over two decades, a group of women and men have been meeting weekly at Israel's National Cemetery. The discussions range from politics, to history, to aging, each person a unique character in their own right. Director Tali Shemesh's award-winning documentary follows this group for over 5 years, presenting a humorous and moving look at how people deal with the grieving process.

CHEZ SCHWARTZ

TORONTO PREMIERE

CANADA 2006, 83 min

Director: Gary Beitel

Thu. May 10 ▶ 5:15pm ▶ BC



Certain to make even vegetarians crave a smoked meat sandwich, this loving tribute to the Montreal institution, Schwartz's Deli, takes a nostalgic look back at the famed restaurant's 79 year history. Compiling interviews with current and past staffers, devoted customers and a colourful array of neighbourhood characters, including the late animator, Ryan Larkin, director Gary Beitel returns to the Festival to give audiences a delightfully entertaining and rich cultural portrait of Montreal. You may also see some familiar faces amongst the throngs of devoted patrons.

Guests: Producer Richard Elson and Frank Silva and others from Schwartz's Deli. To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

Generously sponsored by:



CLOSE TO HOME

TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2005, 90 min

Hebrew

Directors: Vidi Bilu, Dalia Hager

Wed. May 9 ▶ 7:00pm ▶ BC

Thu. May 10 ▶ 8:30pm ▶ SG



It is rare that a debut film comes along that is so assured and impeccably paced as Vidi Bilu and Dalia Hager's timely and passionate *Close to Home*. The film explores the nuances and intricacies of friendship, against a politically charged backdrop, as it follows two very different young Israeli women who patrol Jerusalem streets as part of their military service. In the process, they find that, despite the uniforms, they are just young people trying to find their place in the world.

COMME T'Y ES BELLE (GORGEOUS)

FRANCE/BELGIUM/LUXEMBOURG/UK

2006, 90 min

French

Director: Lisa Allessandrin

Mon. May 7 ▶ 9:00pm ▶ BC

Wed. May 9 ▶ 3:00pm ▶ SG



The Jewish answer to Sex in the City! Replete with four strong sexy women, love, romance, handsome hunks and an infectious pop soundtrack featuring Diana Ross, Celine Dion and Kylie Minogue. Meet Isa, Alice, Lea and Nina, sisters juggling dating, divorce, parenthood, and romantic discontent, all the while running a thriving beauty salon and deflecting the barbs of their meddling mother. Comme t'y es Belle (Gorgeous) is a fast paced, flashy confection. By the time the infectious strains of Sister Sledge's "We are Family" play, you'll already be cheering!

THE DARIEN DILEMMA

TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 90 min

Hebrew

Director: Erez Laufer

Sun. May 6 ▶ 6:00pm ▶ AG



A father and his filmmaker son explore the previously untold story of 1,000 Viennese Jews stranded on the frozen Danube River in 1941 awaiting rescue by Ruth Klieger, a senior agent of the newly created Mossad. Using a clever mix of dramatic re-enactments and interviews, director Erez Laufer has created a potent hybrid documentary that is visually arresting and intellectually challenging.

Guest: Director Erez Laufer

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

DAY AND NIGHT

TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2005, 50 min

Hebrew

Director: Sivan Arbel

Mon. May 7 ▶ 1:00pm ▶ BC



With incredible access and a gentle unobtrusive style, *Day and Night* takes us inside Jerusalem's Weingarten Orphanage for Girls, an Orthodox facility in operation since 1902. The film offers a rare glimpse into the daily lives and struggles of these beautiful children.

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

SHOWN WITH

L'AGE DE RAISON SHORT

FRANCE 2004, 13 min

French

Director: Myriam Aziza

Seven-year-old Deborah is bewildered by the contradictions within her strict Jewish upbringing and traditions – particularly those laws concerning Kashrut. Counsel from her parents, brother, friends and teachers fail to help. This film is a little gem that sensitively captures the confusions of childhood.

Weekday matinees presented by:

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DEAR. MR. WALDMAN

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 90 min

Hebrew

Director: Hanan Peled

Fri. May 11 ▶ 2:00pm ▶ AG

Sun. May 13 ▶ 1:00pm ▶ SG



In the early sixties, Hilik, a ten-year-old boy who lives in Tel Aviv, feels that it is his duty to make his parents happy because of all they suffered during the Holocaust. At the very core of this drama is a message of family unity and the difficulty of leaving behind the past in pursuit of a better future.

SHOWN WITH *

TEDDYBEAR SHORT

CANADIAN PREMIERE

GERMANY 2005, 20 min

German

Director: Pedram Zolgadri

Fri. May 11 ▶ 2:00pm ▶ *AG ONLY

Teddybear is a harrowing and visually sumptuous story of a little girl and her Teddybear during a time of persecution of the Jews in Nazi Germany.

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

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A FACE IN THE CROWD

USA 1957, 125 min, B/W

Director: Elia Kazan

Writer: Budd Schulberg, based on his story "The Arkansas Traveler"

Cast: Andy Griffith, Patricia Neal, Anthony Franciosa, Walter Matthau, Lee Remick

Wed. May 9 ▶ 10:00pm ▶ AG



Andy Griffith plays against type as Lonesome Rhodes, the folksy, guitar-strumming discovery of an Arkansas reporter (Patricia Neal), who transforms him into a national celebrity. Rhodes evolves from a Will Rogers, "down home" charismatic type, to reveal a very dark side (some critics have alluded to Rhodes' similarities to Arthur Godfrey). Schulberg's script is way ahead of its time – surprisingly prescient about the role of the media in manipulating image, the cult of celebrity, and the intertwining of entertainment and politics. "What is important is ...its unsailable spirit, its power, and what I dare call its necessity... This film is passionate, exalted, fierce..." – Francois Truffaut, quoted on Turner Classic Movies website. UCLA Film and Television 35mm Archive print. Preservation funded by the Film Foundation.

The Schreibers in Hollywood Series is made possible by the generous support of: Shirley Granovsky

FAMILY LAW

ARGENTINA 2006, 102 min

Spanish

Director: Daniel Burman

Sun. May 13 ▶ 5:00pm ▶ BC



Family Law is the acclaimed follow-up to Daniel Burman's 2005 Festival hit, *Lost Embrace*. The drama begins with the voice-over narration of Perelman (Daniel Hendler), a lawyer in Buenos Aires who teaches at a university. He's talking about the habits of his father, Perelman Sr. (Arturo Goetz), a popular and successful barrister who meets with his clients where they work, or in restaurants, so he can size them up in a personal setting. Work fills his days, and his son is astonished by his energy, opting himself for a more lackadaisical approach to life. *Family Law* is an intricately woven meditation on fathers and fatherhood and was Argentina's official submission for this past year's Academy Awards®.

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THE FILM CLASS

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 53 min

Hebrew

Director: Uri Rosenwaks

Tue. May 8 ▶ 6:00pm ▶ AG



When Uri Rosenwaks came to the Bedouin town of Rahat to teach photography to the women of the community, he had no idea the story he would unearth, and the inspiration he would become to them. Opening a dialogue, he began to help the women disclose the tragic history of slavery, abuse and oppression. By giving them a camera, Rosenwaks handed them a tool to fight back.

Guest: Rashed El-Abid

FILM FANATIC

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 55 min

Hebrew

Director: Shlomo Hazan

Sun. May 6 ▶ 2:30pm ▶ AG



Yehuda Grovais is a young Israeli ultra-Orthodox Jew, who makes films geared for members of his community, who are prohibited from watching mainstream movies. His film output is astonishing. He has made more than 50 feature films, with little or no financial support, despite never actually having watched a feature film other than his own. An endearing film that proves anyone can make his dreams come true. Pay attention, because Yehuda Grovais is ready for his close-up!

SHOWN WITH

COMING HOME SAFELY SHORT

Israel, 3 min

Hebrew

Director: Yehuda Grovais

A short film that illustrates the style of ultra-Orthodox Israeli filmmaker Yehuda Grovais and exemplifies the films he makes.

THE FIRST ZIONIST BUNNY

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2005, 74 min

Hebrew

Director: Shiri Shahar

Tue. May 8 ▶ 9:45pm ▶ BC



Full of style and wit, *The First Zionist Bunny* documents a group of female contestants as they compete to become Israel's first Playboy Bunny. The camera captures all the highs and lows and follows the eventual winner to the USA for the inevitable meeting with the legendary man himself: Hugh Hefner. While the film is certainly an enjoyable romp, at its heart, *The First Zionist Bunny* deftly and intelligently exposes issues of competition, women's liberation, body image and cultural morals, in one sexy and thought provoking documentary.

WARNING: Some sexual content and language.

SHOWN WITH

MY NOSE SHORT

USA 2007, 13 min

Director: Gayle Kirschenbaum

This funny, personal documentary explores the relationship between Gayle and her mother, who thinks Gayle would be much more attractive if she had a nose job.

Guest: Director Gayle Kirschenbaum

FORCE OF EVIL ✂

USA 1948, 78 min, B/W

Director: Abraham Polonsky

Writer: Abraham Polonsky, Ira Wolfert, based on Wolfert's novel, *Tucker's People*

Cast: John Garfield, Thomas Gomez, Beatrice Pearson, Marie Windsor, Roy Roberts, Howland Chamberlain

Thu. May 10 ▶ 10:00pm ▶ AG



Abraham Polonsky wrote and directed this complex moral fable, one of America's most critically acclaimed film noirs. Cited by director Martin Scorsese as having a profound influence on his own series of gangster dramas, the film stars John Garfield as Joe Morse, a corrupt lawyer who conceives a scheme to control the city's illegal numbers racket. Joe's brother Leo (Thomas Gomez), owner of a small-time gambling operation, refuses to play along, despite his brother's offer of protection against crime boss Ben Tucker (Roy Roberts). *Force of Evil* connected the dots between business, politics and organized crime long before *The Godfather* did. It is, as the *New York Times* has said, "a dynamic crime-and-punishment drama, brilliantly and broadly realized...a sizzling piece of work." (Bosley Crowther) UCLA Film and Television 35mm Archive print. Preservation funded by the Film Foundation.

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THE FORGOTTEN REFUGEES ★

TORONTO PREMIERE

USA 2006, 49 min

Director: Michael Grynzpan

Sun. May 6 ▶ 8:15pm ▶ AG



The Forgotten Refugees uses archival footage and informative interviews to explore the history and destruction of Middle Eastern Jewish communities, some of which had existed for over 2,500 years. Employing extensive testimony of survivors from Egypt, Yemen, Libya and Iraq, the film recounts the stories – of joy and of suffering – that nearly a million individuals have carried with them for so long. This film is the first in a Festival spotlight on Sephardic Judaism – a rarely told story.

Guest: Sarah Taieb-Carlen, from York University will introduce the Spotlight on Sephardim series.

The Spotlight on Sephardim Series is made possible by the generous support of: Marsha Bronfman

FOUR WEEKS IN JUNE

TORONTO PREMIERE

SWEDEN 2005, 111 min

Swedish

Director: Henry Meyer

Tue. May 8 ▶ 7:30pm ▶ BC

Wed. May 9 ▶ 8:30pm ▶ SG



Audiences are in for a tour de force of acting in this moving story of friendship between two women. When young Sandra (rising star Tuva Novotny) is sentenced to community service in a small town, she becomes an unlikely companion and friend to Lily, the widow who lives below her apartment (in an award-winning performance by Danish grande dame of cinema, Ghita Norby).

Generously sponsored by:



THE FRONT

USA 1976, 96 min

Director: Martin Ritt

Writer: Walter Bernstein

Cast: Woody Allen, Zero Mostel, Herschel Bernardi, Michael Murphy, Andrea Marcovicci

Wed. May 9 ▶ 4:00pm ▶ AG



Screenwriter Walter Bernstein and director Martin Ritt were both victimized by the Hollywood blacklist of the McCarthy era, and were unable to work openly for many years. Their personal story is brought to the screen in the guise of Howard Prince, a small-time bookie (Woody Allen) who eagerly helps blacklisted writers by selling scripts under his own name, until he himself is ordered to appear before the House Un-American Activities Committee. In addition to Bernstein and Ritt, others involved with the film were real-life victims of the blacklist, including Zero Mostel, Herschel Bernardi and supporting players Lloyd Gough and Joshua Shelley. Bernstein's script was nominated for the Best Original Screenplay Academy Award®.

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THE FURY OF THE ENTIRE WORLD

TORONTO PREMIERE

NETHERLANDS 2006, 115 min

Dutch

Director: Guido Peters

Mon. May 7 ▶ 5:00pm ▶ BC



Spanning some 20 years, this World War Two thriller is a tense and fast-paced story that follows the coming of age of Alex Goudveyl, who is bullied by other children and protected by his friend Vroombout. Some years later, the two become embroiled in a murder mystery set in the time of the German occupation of The Netherlands. "Het Woeden der Gehele Wereld" is a 1993 Dutch novel by Maarten 't Hart. The title translates as "The Fury of the Entire World" and is derived from a song with lyrics by René-François Sully-Prudhomme, set to music by Gabriel Fauré.

GLOOMY SUNDAY

GERMANY/HUNGARY 1999, 110 min

German/English/Hungarian

Director: Rolf Schubel

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

Thu. May 10 ▶ 3:00pm ▶ SG



Back by popular demand, this is the most successful film in our Festival's history. 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 potent mix of drama and humour, the film has become a TJFF perennial.

GOTTA SERVE SOMEBODY:

THE GOSPEL SONGS OF BOB DYLAN 🎵

USA 2005, 82 min

Director: Michael B. Borofsky

Sat. May 12 ▶ Midnight ▶ BC



Bob Dylan (né Zimmerman) confounded everyone and alienated fans when he went through his born-again Christian phase from 1979–1981. Gotta Serve Somebody, a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the album of the same name, includes interviews (Jerry Wexler and others) and knockout renditions of Dylan's gospel period, newly interpreted by African American performers. Featured artists include: Shirley Caesar, Aaron Neville, Fairfield Four, Dottie Peoples, Helen Baylor, Chicago Mass Choir and Mighty Clouds of Joy. Also includes rare archival footage from Dylan's astonishing Toronto performance of "When He Returns." Twenty-five years later, a new consensus emerges: "As it turns out, Dylan was a terrific composer of gospel music and Gotta Serve Somebody ought to allow the unconverted to see the light." – John Metzger, The Music Box.

Generously sponsored by:



GRANDPA – SPEAK TO ME IN RUSSIAN

CANADIAN PREMIERE

IRELAND 2007, 55 min

Director: Louis Lentin

Sun. May 6 ▶ 11:00am ▶ BC



A drama-documentary search for the director's roots through the Baltic countries, by way of Ireland. Louis Lentin discovers a fascinating story of his family history in an attempt to reconstruct the life of his paternal grandfather, Kalman Lentin.

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

SHOWN WITH

KHELOM'S CUSTOMS SHORT

RUSSIA 2005, 5 min

Russian & English titles

Director: Irina Litmanovich

A beautiful, animated short based on a poem by Ovsei Driz that deals with the well-known Jewish shtetl of Chelm.

THE GREAT COMMUNIST BANK ROBBERY

CANADIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE/GERMANY/UK 2004, 75 min

Romanian and English

Director: Alexandru Solomon

Sun. May 13 ▶ 3:00pm ▶ BC



In 1959 Romania, six former members of the Nomenklatura and the secret police, all of whom were Jewish, organized a robbery of the National Bank. After their arrest, the State forces them to play themselves in a film, which reconstructs the crime and the investigation. At the end of their trial, filmed live, they are sentenced to death and executed. A month later, the film Reconstitution was released and became a sensation throughout the country. The Great Communist Bank Robbery has all of the intrigue of the very best suspense novel, a great example of truth being so much stranger than fiction.

HANUSZKA

TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 69 min

Hebrew, Polish

Director: Nurit Kedar

Wed. May 9 ▶ 5:00pm ▶ BC



Set in 1942, in Nazi occupied Poland, *Hanuszka* is the semi-autobiographical story of a 12-year-old Jewish girl living on false identity papers, who is brought into the Ursula Nuns Convent, to spend the war years in relative safety. Years later, *Hanuszka* reconnects with the priest who was her mentor and inspiration – none other than Pope John Paul II.

*Generously sponsored by:
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HATS OF JERUSALEM

ISRAEL 2005, 52 min

Director: Nati Adler

Sun. May 6 ▶ 4:00pm ▶ AG



Nati Adler captures the colour and unique flavour of Jerusalem's Old City in this engaging look at the spiritual head coverings of the world's religions. There is the fascinating and mysterious story behind the distinctive fur shtreimels worn by ultra-Orthodox Jews, the origin and meaning of hats worn by Armenian monks and Russian Orthodox clergy, the different styles of keffiyas of the Palestinians, not to mention the variety of ways women cover their hair. The filmmaker wonders whether we'd be able to tell people apart in the Middle East without their symbolic hats.

SHOWN WITH

THE LACE PEDDLER SHORT

TORONTO PREMIERE

TURKEY 2005, 15 min

Turkish, Ladino

Director: Eytan Ipeker

In this elegantly conceived short from Turkey, an aging Jewish lace peddler struggles to adapt amidst the changing times of Istanbul in the 1950s.

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

A HEBREW LESSON

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 117 min

Hebrew

Director: David Ofek

Tue. May 8 ▶ 3:00pm ▶ BC



Language transcends political, religious and ideological divisions; it is what unites and coalesces the different parts of society. This lesson and others are taught and learned by a culturally and racially diverse group of individuals as they work towards learning the language of contemporary Israel. David Ofek's engaging documentary will draw you into the lives of a group of immigrant students in Israel.

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HITLER'S JEWISH SOLDIERS

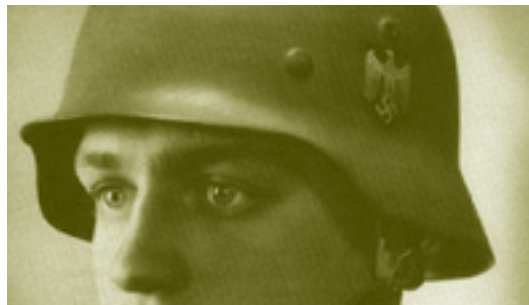
CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 58 min

German, Hebrew

Director: Larry Price

Thu. May 10 ▶ 6:00pm ▶ AG



Inspired by the book "Hitler's Jewish Warriors," by Bryan Mark Rigg, this documentary uncovers a fascinating, often untold story in military history. The confused 1935 Nuremberg laws drafted men of mixed Aryan/Jewish marriages into the German Army. Historians claim that up to 150,000 men of Jewish origin served in the German Army during World War Two. In one case, Hitler unknowingly chose one particular soldier to become the poster boy for the Aryans; first name, Werner, last name, Goldberg!

SHOWN WITH

THE HOLOCAUST TOURIST SHORT

TORONTO PREMIERE

UK 2005, 10 min

Director: Jes Benstock

From hot dogs in Auschwitz to Jewish kitsch in Krakow – is tourism changing our view of history? Director Jes Benstock sets out to explore this in his savagely funny and sobering documentary short.

Guest: Michael Brown, professor emeritus of Jewish Studies and Hebrew at York University

HOLIDAY SONG ✂

USA 1952, 60 min, B/W

Director: Gordon Duff

Writer: Paddy Chayefsky

Cast: Joseph Buloff, David Opatoshu, Werner Klemperer, Herbert Berghoff, Dora Weissman, Ann Dere, Anne Hegira, Iria Jensen, David Kerman

Mon. May 7 ▶ 4:00pm ▶ AG



A rare screening of a teleplay first broadcast on a live anthology TV drama series in the 1950s. Chayefsky's script centres around a Long Island cantor's (Joseph Buloff) crisis of faith following an act of anti-Semitism at a synagogue on the day before Rosh Hashanah. On a train ride to New York to discuss his dilemma with a rabbi, the cantor encounters a young woman, a survivor of Auschwitz, who is contemplating suicide. Based on a true story that appeared in a 1949 Reader's Digest article, *Holiday Song* was one of the earliest dramas to deal with the Jewish-American response to the Holocaust.

Guest: Author/lecturer Paul Buhle

Weekday matinees presented by:

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I CAN GET IT FOR YOU WHOLESALE ✂

USA 1951, 93 min, B/W

Director: Michael Gordon

Writer: Abraham Polonsky, based on the novel by Jerome Weidman

Cast: Susan Hayward, Dan Dailey, Sam Jaffe, George Sanders

Fri. May 11 ▶ Noon ▶ AG



Set in New York's garment district, *I Can Get It For You Wholesale* stars Susan Hayward as an ambitious fashion model turned dress manufacturer. In her climb up the corporate ladder she has to weigh her haute couture career aspirations against the romantic overtures of her colleague (Dan Dailey) and her friendship with her other partner (Sam Jaffe). Polonsky deals with one of his favoured themes – money and ethics – in a film that centres on a bright female protagonist struggling to overcome poverty and sexist stereotypes. The Broadway musical version of 1962 followed the Jewish aspects of the novel more closely and was notable for the debut of Barbra Streisand in a small role and the play's star, Elliott Gould.

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KIKE LIKE ME

CANADA, 2007, 70 min

Director: Jamie Kastner

Sun. May 13 ▶ 1:00 pm ▶ BC



A journey of self discovery by filmmaker Jamie Kastner as he explores the theme of anti-semitism and his own personal relationship with his Jewishness. Jamie travels from the yeshivas of Brooklyn to the Auschwitz death camp. An opportunity for the audience to engage with a young director.

Guest: Director Jamie Kastner

KING OF BEGGARS

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 98 min

Hebrew, Russian

Director: Uri Paster

Sun. May 6 ▶ 9:45pm ▶ BC



Israel's first swashbuckler: an action film for adults, drawing on Samurai sword-fighting tradition and Kabala martial arts! The film follows the adventures of Fishke from humble bathhouse attendant in a Russian shtetl to leader of a fighting brigade of Jewish outcasts...This is a stirring story of the rise and fall of a Jewish warrior leader, and his inevitable struggle against both a divided Jewish community and its Russian masters. Beautifully filmed, it is a unique folk tale breaking historical stereotypes of Jews as passive victims. (Based on the character of Fishke der Krumer by Mendele Mocher Sforim). Film notes for King of Beggars courtesy of Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival.

*Guests: Actor Shahar Sorek, Director Uri Paster
To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com*

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KINNERET LIVES

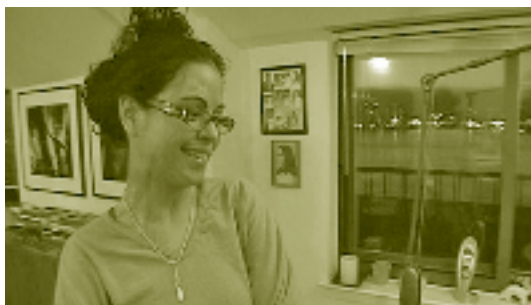
TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2005, 52 min

Hebrew

Directors: Ruth Yuval, Zamir Dahbash

Sun. May 6 ▶ 3:00pm ▶ BC



In 2001, a café called My Coffee House was bombed in Tel Aviv. Thirty-two people were injured and one girl died. Kinneret Boosany, a thirty-two-year old singer and occasional waitress, was taken away from the scene, critically injured. After five months in a coma, this brave woman awoke to discover a reality that would destroy most people. Instead, Kinneret would prove more resilient than even she expected, becoming an inspiration to those touched by tragedy in a time of terrorism. In addition to this film, Kinneret appears in the documentary features *More Than a Thousand Words* and *Open Eye – Open I*, both screening in this year's Festival.

Guests: Kinneret Boosany &

Director Zamir Dahbash

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

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THE LONGING: THE FORGOTTEN JEWS OF SOUTH AMERICA ★

TORONTO PREMIERE

2006 USA, 75 min

Spanish

Director: Gabrielle Bohm

Thu. May 10 ▶ 1:00pm ▶ BC



A carefully constructed portrait that movingly explores the lives of South Americans who, after discovering that their Jewish ancestors converted to Catholicism during the Spanish Inquisition, undertake profound personal journeys of faith. Although they long to reconnect to their Jewish roots, local Jewish authorities dismiss them. Part of a Festival spotlight on Sephardic Judaism.

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

*The Spotlight on Sephardim Series is
made possible by the generous support of:
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LOVE AND DANCE

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 95 min

Hebrew, Russian

Director: Eitan Anner

Wed. May 9 ▶ 3:00pm ▶ BC

Thu. May 10 ▶ 6:00pm ▶ SG



Chen is a young boy in the middle of a conflict between his Russian-born mother, who emphasizes her cultural upbringing, and his Israeli father, who longs to raise a manly, macho son. When he spies on a ballroom dance class, the teacher, a former dance champion, encourages him to join the class. An uplifting story sure to appeal to Mad Hot Ballroom fans.

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M. ROSENTHALIS: SELF PORTRAIT

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 58 min

Hebrew

Director: Eli Cohen

Fri. May 11 ▶ 3:00pm ▶ BC



M. Rosenthalis: Self Portrait looks at the life and times of the internationally renowned Israeli painter. His students and contemporaries lavish praise upon him, not only for his skill, but also for his warmth and desire to treat life as a never-ending learning process.

SHOWN WITH

THE DIARY OF NICLAS GHEILER SHORT

WORLD PREMIERE

USA 2006, 30 min

German

Director: George Aguilar

Director George Aguilar unearthed his late grandfather's diary and created a visually arresting cinematic poem full of rich and surprising secrets. Beautiful and fascinating.

Guest: Director George Aguilar

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

Weekday matinees presented by:

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MADRID BEFORE HANITA

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 58 min

Hebrew

Director: Eran Torbiner

Thu. May 10 ▶ 8:00pm ▶ AG



The rarely heard story of 300 Jews from Palestine/Israel who departed to fight fascism and joined the International Brigades during the Spanish Civil War from 1936–1939. Their bravery is displayed in this documentary that features archival photographs and interviews with surviving members of this elite group.

Guest: Director Eran Torbiner

SHOWN WITH

BAUHAUS: BROKEN WINGS SHORT

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA 2006, 22 min

German

Director: Philipp Eierund

With visual grace and compelling re-enactments, Bauhaus: Broken Wings recounts the story of a group of artists who struggle to protect and maintain their artistic freedom and spirit against the rise of the Nazi regime.

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

A MAN FROM MUNKÁCS: GYPSY KLEZMER

CANADIAN PREMIERE

HUNGARY/GERMANY/USA 2005, 58 min

Romanian, Hungarian, Roma

Director: Yael Strom

Tue. May 8 ▶ 8:15pm ▶ AG



Esteemed filmmaker, Yael Strom, returns to the Festival with an absorbing exploration of the connection between The Rom and Jews through the history of Gypsy klezmer.

Guests: The Budapest Klezmer Band will perform following the film.

*Generously sponsored by:
Cookie and Stephen Sandler*

*Transportation for the
Budapest Klezmer Band provided by:*



A MATTER OF TIME ★

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA/ISRAEL 2005, 104 min

Directors: Marco Carmel, Serge Ankri

Mon. May 7 ▶ 8:00pm ▶ AG



This two-part film is an epic exploration of North African Judaism during the Second World War. In the first film, “From Tripoli to Bergen-Belsen”, director Marco Carmel uncovers the history of the Libyan Jews, who despite suffering from racial laws at the hands of the Italian government, managed to maintain their unique cultural traditions. The second episode, “Common Fate,” continues to look into the history of North African Jewry by focusing on Algeria and Morocco. Part of the TJFF spotlight on Sephardic Jews.

The Spotlight on Sephardim Series is made possible by the generous support of: Marsha Bronfman

MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT ✍

USA 1959, 118 min, B/W

Director: Delbert Mann

Writer: Paddy Chayefsky from his play by the same name

Cast: Frederic March, Kim Novak, Glenda Farrell, Jan Norris, Lee Grant, Martin Balsam

Sun. May 6 ▶ 12:15pm ▶ AG



Frederic March is remarkable as Jerry Kingsley, a lonely, aging widower and successful partner in a New York clothing company, who falls in love with his twenty-something secretary (Kim Novak) and decides to marry her against both their families' wishes. Transcending the clichés of a May-December love story, Chayefsky's script and Delbert Mann's direction convey a humanity and depth that were evident in *Marty*, their previous collaboration. The television and theatrical versions of this story were more overtly Jewish than the film (the stage version starred Edward G. Robinson) but the setting, family dynamic and language in this film are unmistakably drawn from Chayefsky's Bronx background.

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MISS UNIVERSE 1929

AUSTRIA 2006, 71 min

German

Director: Peter Forgacs

Thu. May 10 ▶ Noon ▶ AG



From a collection of vintage photographs and super 8 film rolls, award-winning Hungarian filmmaker Peter Forgacs has tenderly crafted a love story that spans decades. This stunning film follows the beautiful Austrian Miss Universe pageant winner from her childhood years, to her win as Miss Universe, through the years of the Holocaust. Miss Universe 1929 is a paean to the power of enduring love and an important tribute to the power of the photographic image.

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MORE THAN A THOUSAND WORDS

ISRAEL/GERMANY 2006, 70 min

Hebrew

Director: Solo Avital

Mon. May 7 ▶ 3:00pm ▶ BC



With precision and style, director Solo Avital has taken us behind the lens and deep into the working life of world-renowned photographer Ziv Koren. In this exquisite exploration of the power of the photographic image, Avital follows Koren as he documents the terrifying realities of war, and showcases interviews with his various colleagues and subjects (including Kinneret Boosany, who is featured in Open Eye – Open I and is the focus of Kinneret Lives).

Guest: Kinneret Boosany

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NAF: STREET KID

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 80 min

Hebrew

Director: Moshe Alafi

Fri. May 11 ▶ 5:00pm ▶ BC



Naf: Street Kid, follows Naftali, who was kicked out of his ultra-Orthodox family at age 14. Naf has experienced complete homelessness, exploitation at the hands of a despicable pedophile, and involvement as a drug trafficker. Though he makes himself unsympathetic due to his constant involvement in criminal activity, we can see his damaged and troubled soul. This is a rare and disturbing look into the lives of troubled youth in Israel.

*Guests: **Jeff Mintz** of JF&CS, who has worked with troubled youth in Israel; **Brian Henry** of The Hoodlinc Project, subject of Allan King's award-winning film EMPz 4 Life; **Rod Cohen**, founder and executive director of Blake, Boulton Youth Outreach Service; **Desmond Cole**, advanced peer educator Youthlink Inner City.*

NINA'S JOURNEY

TORONTO PREMIERE

SWEDEN/POLAND 2005, 120 min

Swedish

Director: Lena Einhorn

Sun. May 6 ▶ 7:30pm ▶ BC

Tue. May 8 ▶ 3:00pm ▶ SG



A stunning adaptation of the life story of director Lena Einhorn's mother Nina, over a period of six years. We watch young Nina come of age during the time of the Warsaw Ghetto, while struggling to stay alive. What sets this true-to-life story apart is the film's poignant narration, which comes courtesy of Nina herself. This is a cinematic treasure.

NONE BUT THE LONELY HEART /

USA 1944, 112 min, B/W

Director: Clifford Odets

Writer: Clifford Odets, based on
the novel by Richard Llewellyn

Cast: Cary Grant, Ethel Barrymore,
Barry Fitzgerald, June Duprez,
Jane Wyatt, Dan Duryea

Sun. May 13 ▶ Noon ▶ AG



Cary Grant was nominated for an Academy Award® for his role as Ernie Mott, a Cockney ne'er-do-well from the impoverished East End of London, torn between his love for his ailing mother and a free-spirited criminal lifestyle. Although the setting is England, the themes of the film echo those of Odets' Jewish New York, depression era plays, and the script is infused with moral ambiguity, philosophy and poetry. Grant lost the Oscar® that year, though Ethel Barrymore won for her role as his loving mother. Ernie Mott was one of Grant's favourite characters, and he personally lobbied to have Odets direct. UCLA Film and Television archive print.

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made possible by the generous support of:
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NOT ALL WERE MURDERERS

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

GERMANY 2006, 96 min

German

Director: Jo Baier

Thu. May 10 ▶ 3:00pm ▶ BC



Not All Were Murderers is a beautiful film that shows that not all Germans were actively involved in the Holocaust. Based on the childhood memories of actor Michael Degen, the movie deals with the everyday struggle to survive as a Jewish boy in Nazi Germany. What they discover is kindness from German strangers, who help to protect them, even in the face of great danger.

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NUREMBERG: THE NAZIS FACING THEIR CRIMES

CANADIAN PREMIERE

FRANCE 2006, 90 min

French, German, Russian, English

Director: Christian Delage

Wed. May 9 ▶ 6:00pm ▶ AG



Nuremberg: The Nazis Facing Their Crimes, uses chilling courtroom testimony with intense and graphic archival footage to recount the historic and disturbing Nuremberg trials. Few films have gone this deeply into documenting and displaying the actual court trials as French director Christian Delage. Narrated by actor Christopher Plummer. Includes an interview with Hollywood screenwriter Budd Schulberg, head of John Ford's wartime documentary unit.

*WARNING: Graphic archival footage.
Guest Invited.*

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ONCE A NAZI

CANADA 2006, 48 min

Directors: Frederic Bohbot, Evan Beloff

Mon. May 7 ▶ 2:00pm ▶ AG



Using the structure of a narrative thriller, *Once A Nazi* provides audiences with a stirring account of the life of Adalbert Lallier, an esteemed Montreal university professor, who spent years hiding his connection to atrocities in Theresienstadt as a member of the Waffen SS. Lallier has lived with his guilt and his shame for some 60 years and this film asks whether one can truly be deserving of forgiveness.

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

SHOWN WITH

PESYA'S NECKLACE SHORT

TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 35 min

Hebrew, Polish

Director: Jorge Gurvich

Pesya is an 80-year-old Polish Holocaust survivor determined to return to her homeland in search of a gold necklace lost during the war. A wonderfully rich and rewarding short dramatic film.

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ONE OF THE LAST

WORLD PREMIERE

CANADA 2007, 52 min

Director: Ed Kucerak

Thu. May 10 ▶ 2:00pm ▶ AG



The story of a Ukrainian immigrant family's arrival in Ottawa to open the famous Rideau Bakery. An intimate and heart warming look at the importance of family and the impact their business had on an entire community. It also touches upon the survival of a business amidst changing times and technological advancements.

Guest Invited.

SHOWN WITH

CALIFORNIA SHMEER SHORT

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA 2006, 25 min

Directors: Alan H. Rosenberg,
Richard Goldgewicht

A funny, yet historically rich look at the history of the bagel and shmeer – from cultural significance, to its current place as common everyday comfort food. This documentary charts some 350 years of history into its brisk running time.

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OPEN EYE – OPEN I

WORLD PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2007, 59 min

Hebrew

Directors: Shirley Barenholz, Ohad Ufaz

Wed. May 9 ▶ Noon ▶ AG



Dutch photojournalist Shirley Barenholz sets out to explore her father's own story as Holocaust survivor, and the connection between him and a project she is working on about survivors of suicide bombings. One of the subjects of Barenholz's photo project is Kinneret Boosany, seen in the films *Kinneret Lives*, and *More Than a 1000 Words*, both of which we are also screening. In the immensely moving *Open Eye – Open I*, Barenholz lets down her guard at times and steps out from behind her camera, to confront her own emotions.

Guest: Kinneret Boosany

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OUR CHILDREN

POLAND 1948, 70 min

Yiddish

Directors: Shimon Dzigan, Shaul Goskind

Sun. May 13 ▶ 11:00am ▶ BC



Our Children is the last Yiddish-language feature to be made in Poland. Revered comedic duo Shimon Dzigan and Israel Schumacher star as performers who are putting on a play about the Warsaw Ghetto, when some children in the audience – Jewish kids who miraculously survived the war – heckle them, saying life in the ghetto wasn't the way the performers described. Recently restored.

SHOWN WITH

ST. PETERSBURG JEWISH COMMUNITY SHORT

USA, 2006, 12 min

Yiddish, Russian, English

Director: Phillip Rosten

Our youngest filmmaker ever, seven-year-old Phillip Rosten chronicles the Jewish celebrations at the St. Petersburg Jewish Community Centre while living in that city with his parents and attending Jewish Sunday School.

Guest: Director Phillip Rosten

*Dedicated to the memory of:
Jessie Habelfeld Freedman, Louis Freedman,
and Morris Habelfeld*

PAPER CLIPS

USA 2004, 87 min

English, German

Directors: Elliot Berlin, Joe Fab

Tue. May 8 ▶ 10:00am ▶ AG ▶ **Free**

Wed. May 9 ▶ 10:00am ▶ AG ▶ **Free**



In a white, Christian, 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 award-winning film about combating the evils of hatred and intolerance.

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PAPER CLIP: A RIDE TO REMEMBER

WORLD PREMIERE

CANADA 2007, 57 min

Director: Mitchell Belman

Mon. May 7 ▶ 6:00pm ▶ AG



In 2006, some 300 Jewish bikers, mainly from Toronto, gathered to ride to Whitwell, Tennessee, home of the Whitwell Middle School Children's Holocaust Memorial, the subject of the now classic documentary, *Paper Clips*. The ride offered these people the opportunity to come together and pay tribute to this amazing project. Director Mitchell Belman documents this ride with a simple, yet intimate style and has created a road movie that certainly doesn't idle.

Guest: Director Mitchell Belman

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

PARIS BLUES

USA 1961 98 min, B/W

Director: Martin Ritt

Writers: Walter Bernstein, Lulla Rosenfeld, Irene Kamp, Jack Sher, based on a novel by Harold Flender

Cast: Paul Newman, Sidney Poitier, Joanne Woodward, Diahann Carroll, Louis Armstrong

Sat. May 12 ▶ 10:00pm ▶ AG



Walter Bernstein collaborated with several Jewish writers, as well as with director Martin Ritt (*The Front*) in this adaptation of Harold Flender's book of the same name. Two American jazz musicians (Newman and Poitier), living and working in Paris, fall in love with a couple of American tourists (Woodward and Carroll). Although the plot is slim, the film is notable for its recognition of the racism in America at the time and its ability to beautifully evoke the world of jazz and the Paris of expatriate musicians. With an Oscar® nominated score by Duke Ellington and an appearance by Louis Armstrong as Wild Man Moore. "... a must for jazz fans" – Leonard Maltin

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PAUL BUHLE
JEWISH HOLLYWOOD AND
THE BLACKLIST: THE MEMORY
THAT WON'T GO AWAY ✂

Sun. May 6 ▶ 11:00am ▶ AG ▶ **Free Talk**



It is difficult to place ourselves backwards in time, to an era when Jewish-Americans who wrote wartime anti-fascist film hits were transformed, almost overnight, into supposed subversive enemies of America...as hard as it is to think of a Congressional committee chair telling reporters that “Russian Jews control too much of Hollywood,” placing “loathsome, lying, immoral anti-Christian filth” in front of innocent children...” Renowned author/editor (A Very Dangerous Citizen: Abraham Lincoln Polonsky and the Hollywood Left; Radical Hollywood; Jews and American Popular Culture) and Brown University lecturer Paul Buhle will describe the generation of left-leaning Hollywood writers who brought Yiddishkayt and “social themes” into film, pioneered noir, and suffered the consequences.

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PAUL ROBESON 🎵

USA 1979, 115 min

Director: Lloyd Richards

Writer: Phillip Hayes Dean

Cast: James Earl Jones, Burt Wallace

Fri. May 11 ▶ 4:00pm ▶ AG ▶ **Free**



Because of the enthusiastic reception given last year's screening of the documentary, Paul Robeson: Here I Stand, we are thrilled to present a rare recorded version of actor James Earl Jones' electrifying one-man show chronicling the turbulent life of Robeson. 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. Robeson stood for black civil rights in America, and more broadly, for an international brotherhood. Angry, poignant and bitterly funny, Jones' tour de force mixes songs and stories illustrating Robeson's artistic achievements as well as his fight against the ill treatment accorded him by the United States.

*Guest: Producer/Broadcaster
 Rita Shelton Deverell*

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PORGY AND BESS: AN AMERICAN VOICE 🎵

USA 1998, 84 min

Director: Nigel Noble

Thu. May 10 ▶ 4:00pm ▶ AG



Last year, as part of its “Rhythm and Jews” series, the TJFF screened Trevor Nunn’s acclaimed version of the Gershwin classic performed by the Glyndebourne Opera. Nunn is interviewed in this illuminating documentary, along with several notable African Americans, who offer both their critical and their laudatory views of the Jewish/Black musical collaboration. Narrated by Ruby Dee, the film also incorporates re-enactments and wonderful archival clips from a variety of legendary versions of Porgy and Bess. Featured are: Leontyne Price, William Warfield, Diahann Carroll, Willard White, Maya Angelou, Cab Calloway and Francis Gershwin Godowsky.

*Guest: Producer/Broadcaster
Rita Shelton Deverell*

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SAVED BY DEPORTATION

TORONTO PREMIERE

USA 2007, 75 min

Yiddish, Polish, Russian

Director: Slawomir Grunberg

Mon. May 7 ▶ Noon ▶ AG



When the Nazis invaded Poland in September 1939, thousands of Jews fled to safety in the areas of Poland occupied by the Soviet Union. In 1940, those refugees who refused to accept Soviet citizenship were deported to forced labour settlements in Siberia or the Ural Mountains. Later, many of these people were moved deeper into the Soviet Union to such Central Asian Republics as Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan. This film follows two of these individuals, Asher and Shifra Scharf, on a personal journey to revisit the people and places that saved their lives during the Holocaust.

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

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SECRET COURAGE: THE WALTER SUSKIND STORY

TORONTO PREMIERE

USA 2005, 82 min

Dutch

Directors: Tim Morse, Karen Morse

Tue. May 8 ▶ 2:00pm ▶ AG



Walter Suskind was a German Jew who risked his life to help save over 1000 infants and children in the Netherlands. The film uses the astonishing testimonies of the children he saved. Not only did Suskind risk his life, but he bravely accepted the scorn of his own people. Directors Tim and Karen Morse have tirelessly collected and documented these stories to create a portrait of a brave and, until now, almost unknown hero.

*Guests: Directors Tim Morse & Karen Morse
To contact the directors of this film visit tjff.com*

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SIX DAYS IN JUNE

WORLD PREMIERE

CANADA 2007, 90 min

Director: Ilan Ziv

Sun. May 6 ▶ 5:00pm ▶ BC



Canadian documentary filmmaker Ilan Ziv brings the story of the Six Day War to the screen with intensity and passion using rare archival footage and riveting interviews. Produced by Ina Fichman, the film reminds us of the fears and anxieties many felt during the days leading to the Six Day War and the events that took place after. It also highlights the changes that have occurred since then and how our perspectives have changed. The film focuses on the background to the war and is a vital historical document that includes interviews with most of the leading figures of the time.

Guest: Producer Ina Fichman

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SOMEONE TO RUN WITH

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 118 min

Hebrew

Director: Oded Davidoff

Thu. May 10 ▶ 9:30pm ▶ BC

Sun. May 13 ▶ 3:00pm ▶ SG



Destiny impacts dangerously in this thriller based on a bestselling book by Israeli writer David Grossman. Disgruntled 17-year-old Asaf is given the difficult task of finding the owner of a homeless dog, Dinko. Unknown to Asaf, the dog's owner, Tamar, has taken to the streets in order to solve her own mystery. Tamar and Asaf begin a journey through the underground life of Jerusalem that few tourists or residents ever see. A clever, tightrope-walk of a film.

Generously sponsored by: Gerry Schwartz

SONIA

USA 2006, 96 min

Director: Lucy Kostelanetz

Tue. May 8 ▶ 1:00pm ▶ BC



The life and art of the Russian avant-garde painter Sofia Dymshitz-Tolstaya is unveiled in this beautiful film. Sonia, as she was known, came from a wealthy Jewish merchant family in St. Petersburg, Russia, and was inspired by the Russian revolutions of 1905 and 1917. The story is told through her memoirs, letters and artwork and they reveal a woman paying a price for the kind of life she wanted to lead.

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SOUTH WIND ON HILTON BEACH

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 50 min

Hebrew

Director: Karin Kainer

Wed. May 9 ▶ 2:00pm ▶ AG



The story begins with Dr. Dorian Peskovich, a Jewish-American surfing champion who, gliding on the waves of Zionism, introduced the first surfboards to the Frishman Beach gang. From this point we are taken on a journey across 40 years of history, as we explore the rise of the surfing phenomenon in Israel. A loving tribute that gives audiences an entertaining and alternative look at Israeli culture. Surfs up everyone!

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STREETS OF JERUSALEM

WORLD PREMIERE

CANADA 2007, 52 min

Hebrew

Director: Igal Hecht

Fri. May 11 ▶ 1:00pm ▶ BC



A revelatory and mature work from Festival veteran Igal Hecht, *Streets of Jerusalem* takes an unbiased and fascinating glimpse into the lives of everyday Jerusalemites. Through frank discussions of issues like racism, terror, or the desire for peace, Hecht has created a film that is quite different from his previous works, opting to step back and observe the lives he documents, instead of jumping into the political fray.

Guest: Director Igal Hecht

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

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SUMMER OF DOLPHINS (TO THE BLACK SEA)

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2007, 82 min

Hebrew

Director: Shahar Segal

Sun. May 13 ▶ 4:30pm ▶ AG



Summer of Dolphins (To the Black Sea) follows three dolphins that have been excommunicated by the pod that lives on Eilat's coral reef. Maya Silber, who raised them from birth, realizes that if Lemon, Shandy and Pashosh stay in the pod, they will die, so she arranges to set them free into the Black Sea in Russia. For an entire summer, a film crew follows the trio and their trainers through an arduous journey fraught with frustration, pain and liberation. Shot in vivid colours with a stark intimacy.

SHOWN WITH

THE ELEPHANT SHORT

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 5 min

Director: Milena Klebanov

A young elephant learns the difficulty of accepting our differences in this stunning Israeli animated short.

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

SWEET MUD (ADAMA MESHUGAAT)

ISRAEL 2006, 97 min

Hebrew, French

Director: Dror Shaul

Mon. May 7 ▶ 7:00pm ▶ BC

Tue. May 8 ▶ 8:30pm ▶ SG



Inspired by his own experience, director Dror Shaul tells the story of a very difficult childhood during the glory days of the kibbutz movement. In 1974, on a secluded kibbutz in the desert, 12-year-old Dvir realizes that his mother is mentally ill and has been abandoned by her community. In his attempts to protect his mother and save her from institutionalization, Dvir reveals the secret behind his father's death, experiences his first love and discovers some unknown truths about his colleagues, teachers and himself. The award-winning film (Israeli Academy Award, prizes at the Berlin Film Festival and Sundance Film Festival) shatters the idealistic image of kibbutz life. A powerful and provocative film with a great child actor.

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THREE MOTHERS (SHALOSH IMAHOT)

ISRAEL 2006, 106 min

Hebrew, Arabic

Director: Dina Zvi-Riklis

Mon. May 7 ▶ 8:30pm ▶ SG



A story about the power of sisterhood – of triplets Rose, Flora and Jasmine who are blessed by King Farouk himself when they are born in Alexandria, Egypt in 1942 to a Jewish family. When their idyllic childhood is disrupted by the sudden death of their mother, they move to Israel to be raised by their hard-working father in the Tel Aviv of the 1950s. The three beauties forge powerful bonds, which make their lives very special, but also result in deadly consequences. As the film slowly reveals the lies and secrets that have kept them together over six decades, the women are forced to confront their consciences and seek forgiveness. Three Mothers is a story of infinite loyalty.

A TICKLE IN THE HEART

GERMANY 1995, 87 min

Director: Stefan Schwietert

Mon. May 7 ▶ 3:00pm ▶ SG



This golden oldie about the great klezmer musicians, the Epstein Brothers, returns to the Toronto Jewish Film Festival. At the time this film was made, the Epstein Brothers, ranged in age from 70 to 84. They were living in retirement communities in Florida, but the film's director persuaded them to do another tour. The cameras also follow the brothers to their parent's birthplace in Poland.

TIED HANDS (YADAIM KSHUROT)

TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 90 min

Hebrew

Director: Dan Wolman

Sat. May 12 ▶ 9:15pm ▶ BC



Gila Almagor (*Summer of Aviya*, *Under The Domim Tree*), who this year is celebrating 50 years in show business, plays a mother searching for marijuana to relieve the pain of her dying son. Extraordinary performances by Almagor and Ido Tadmor reveal the strength and power of the love between a mother and her son.

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

Guests: Director Dan Wolman and actor Ido Tadmor.

YIDDISH SOUL

CANADIAN PREMIERE

BELGIUM 2005, 53 min

Yiddish, German, Dutch

Directors: Turi Finocchiaro & Nathalie Rossetti

Sun. May 13 ▶ 2:30pm ▶ AG



A charming and vibrant documentary delving into the popular explosion of Yiddish music in modern-day Europe. Musical performers like Karsten Troyke and Shura Lipovsky discuss how they are inspired by this music and describe how a new generation of Jews and non-Jews is breathing new life into the world of Yiddish music.

Guests: Shura Lipovsky, Martin Van De Ven and Brian Katz will perform following the film.

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YIDDISH THEATRE: A LOVE STORY

USA 2006, 80 min

Yiddish, English

Director: Dan Katzir

Sun. May 6 ▶ 1:00pm ▶ BC



Ladies and Gentleman, we proudly present a legend of the Yiddish Theatre, Zypora Spaisman! Dan Katzir offers a loving and in-depth portrait of this singular woman who has been at the helm of the longest surviving Yiddish theatre in the United States. Her courage and candor are put front and centre as director Katzir chronicles her rise to the top of this culturally vital and incredibly vibrant art.

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

SHOWN WITH

THE TALE OF THE GOAT SHORT

CANADIAN PREMIERE

USA 2004, 5 min

Director: Max Cohen

A simple, yet beautifully hand drawn retelling of a classic Yiddish fable.

To contact the director of this film visit tjff.com

YOEL, ISRAEL AND THE PASHKAVILS

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2006, 52 min

Hebrew

Director: Lina Chaplin

Wed. May 9 ▶ 1:00pm ▶ BC



A rare glimpse into the ultra-Orthodox community of the Neturei Karta in Jerusalem. Israel Kletzkin owns a printing press and has written and printed hundreds and thousands of pashkavils (news and media posters), which are a major means of communicating news and information within this community. This is a unique and passionate documentary, which looks at a group that does not often allow cameras into their homes.

SHOWN WITH

THE THREE WISHES SHORT

CANADA 2006, 4 min

Director: Sheldon Cohen

This short animated film produced by the National Film Board is based on a traditional Jewish folk tale about a poor couple that tries to decide which of their dreams should come true after being granted special powers.

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