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www.artsforchildren.org

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HELEN ZUKERMAN

Executive Director



Well, it's that time again – what to write, what to write?? Things happen all year that I mean to remember for my annual address, but when finally fingers are put to keyboard, many are forgotten. I could tell you how much time it takes to come up with a stellar line-up like the ones we are able to do each year. I could tell you about our programmers and their dedication to doing the best possible job as they ferret out the most obscure treasures for our enjoyment. I could also tell you about the fun we have, but then I would have to tell you about our "Kir Royale Wednesdays," the day we do a taste test of the chosen drink for the Festival – it's a tradition!

Instead I'll talk about a terrific group of people I met in New York this past fall at the OY!HOO Festival, a conference held for presenters of Jewish arts and culture (JCCs, synagogues, other Jewish Film Festivals). You will have to look far and wide in order to find a more dedicated group of people. The creativity of the presenters and some of the performers was astonishing. We were united in our vision of how we saw our jobs: to engage, to enlighten, to challenge and to facilitate dialogue.

We were also united in our constant struggle for funding.

Because I am a trustee of a private family foundation, I wear two hats and understand the dilemma we all face when approached to become donors. There are so many causes, so many places that need our support, that it is often overwhelming. We appreciate those of you that choose to help us, in whatever form your support takes, and promise to be diligent and deserving of your confidence.

We are unique as a Festival in the antiracist work we do. This past year, with the help of our Trillium grant, we presented more screenings of "Paper Clips" and a workshop screening of "Cabaret" for teachers, where we offered a study guide to use with the film for teaching the Holocaust. Another teacher workshop screening of "Blessed is the Match" (the story of Hannah Senesh) will occur before the Festival, with us and staff of Facing History and Ourselves. Weekday mornings, during the Festival, we will be showing four of our films along with their guests, for schools we have been working with over the past three years, and hopefully some new ones.

This is the inaugural year of the David A. Stein Memorial Award, made possible by the Stein family, in memory of their son, David, who was so committed to our work here. He made our trailers, and premiered some of his films at our Festival. It will be an annual award for the best documentary film making its Canadian Premiere at the TJFF.

The Festival is grateful to be the recipient of the Stein Family's generosity, and saddened by its origin.

Once again, I invite you to share this wonderful programme we have assembled and challenge you to attend something different from what you normally see. We programmers are often astonished with what we find – hidden gems – obscure ideas – previously unheard-of issues.

Discover the unexpected at the Festival – it's a tradition!!

Photo Credit: Aviva Zukerman Schure

LARRY ANKLEWICZ

Programme Coordinator



Welcome to the 16th annual Toronto Jewish Film Festival. We have all been busy for the past year putting together an incredible programme for you. Films that will challenge, that make you ask questions, and films that will entertain you.

We have films from the world of sports – soccer, basketball, skating – even a feature on an Orthodox Jewish boxer!

Last year we explored the world of art by screening the highly successful *Rape of Europa*. This year, with *Stealing Klimt*, we continue with an absorbing story of the fight to reclaim stolen masterpieces. There's also a sensational film, *Arthur Szyk – Illuminator*, featuring his stunning art and his fascinating story.

As always, we have a children's theme with *Children of Teheran*, and *Operation Mural* – stories of intrigue and smuggled children, with historical footage of the early years of Israel.

And, for children of all ages, there is a beautiful concert film, made for TV in 2003, to celebrate Sharon, Lois and Bram's 25th anniversary entertaining children. Now, five years later, we are presenting this film as well as a live performance and an up-front and personal meeting with Sharon, Lois and Bram for questions and autographs. This programme is free, so bring your kids, your grandkids, your friends' kids, and enjoy this special Toronto Jewish Film Festival event. Our closing film is a tribute to Dusty Cohl, one of the founders and guiding spirits behind the Toronto International Film Festival and a well-known film "industry macher." One of his last projects was our closing film, *Pete Seeger: The Power of Song*. Watch a great film about one of the legendary troubadours and social activists of our age, as we pay tribute to one of the people who placed Toronto on the movie map of the world.

On Israel's 60th anniversary, we are featuring a programme called *The Many Faces of Israel Through Film*. Included are Israeli feature films, *Beaufort, Noodle, My Father My Lord, Tehilim, The Secrets, Frozen Days* and *No Exit*. We also have a glimpse of Israeli television and the shows that thrill and delight the Israelis, including the entire first season of *A Touch Away* and three episodes of *Arab Labor*.

As usual, Israeli documentaries are topical and riveting: Stalags, an outstanding film about pornography and the Holocaust; Champagne Spy, the story of one of Israel's most successful spies; Rabin-Peres, tracing the history of the life-long rivalry between two titans of Israeli politics; To See If I'm Smil*ing*, the moving story of trauma suffered by women soldiers; A Slim Peace, about a group of Arab and Jewish women who meet to lose weight, but end up discussing the issues of the Middle East; and, Paying For Justice, a hard-hitting expose of impoverished and elderly Holocaust survivors living in Israel, below the poverty line and unable to collect reparation money earmarked for them.

These are just some of the films making up our programme, but it does show the breadth of this year's presentation. Come out to any one of our three venues and I promise, you will find something that will have meaning for you.

We have something for everyone.



The David A. Stein Memorial Award

The "Tzimmie," is presented in memory of David A. Stein, a gifted filmmaker who passed away suddenly in 2004 at age 34. The name "Tzimmie" is derived from his production company, Tzimmes Entertainment*. The Tzimmie will be an annual award of \$5,000.00 for the best documentary making its Canadian premiere at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, and is intended to provide documentary filmmakers with opportunities to make films of a genre that would have interested David and in some way continue his passion for storytelling in this medium. The winning documentary will be announced on Opening Night of the Festival.

A native of Toronto, son of Mel and the late Linde Stein, the third of four siblings, David attended Forest Hill Collegiate and graduated from the University of Western Ontario.

Largely self-taught he began his career in film in 1993 as production manager for an independent film company, Outdoor Lights Entertainment, and shortly after that worked for Sullivan Entertainment on *"Road to Avonlea."* He wrote, directed and edited a number of short films, supported by broadcasters such as Bravo.

David produced and directed advertising, corporate identity and music videos as well as his share of weddings and family celebrations. He created a unique infomercial for Sony, shot in a three-camera "sit-com" style, featuring two "public access" video game reviewers, set in a cluttered attic, promoting Sony's Play Station. The show, "Game Attics," ran for two seasons of 12 thirty-minute episodes. His first documentary was a 1998 film that he directed and edited for the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, entitled "Towards a Just Society," a study of race relations in Canada since the Second World War. It was well received and used for educational purposes in the school system.

He did extensive work for Associated Producers on their "Betrayal" series (the whole series has since been dedicated to his memory). His treatment of Mordecai Vanunu and Jonathon Pollard showed how he strived to give meaning and understanding to their stories.

David worked closely with the TJFF, producing comedic trailers that not only demonstrated his wonderful sense of humour but also showed his understanding of the human condition. In many ways the TJFF was a second home for him with his love of film and Yiddishkeit.

Mel and Renee Stein and family thank Helen Zukerman and the TJFF for helping make this award possible and meaningful.

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*Tzimmes Entertainment

David once asked his Bubbie, Ruth Stein, why tzimmes was such a mainstay at every festive meal. She replied, "Because it is a tradition!" And David was so tickled by the name and her delivery that he ran with it. His production company became Tzimmes Entertainment and his business card declared, "We make a production out of everything."

This year's jury for the David A. Stein Memorial Award:

Tereza Barta is a director and writer who has worked on more than 25 documentaries, a feature film and several television productions. She is currently an Associate Professor in the Film Department at York University in Toronto. **Ralph Benmergui** is a well-known broadcaster on radio and television as well as being Executive Producer for JAZZ FM 91 in Toronto. His documentary, *My Israel*, is screening at this year's TJFF. **Judy Gladstone** has been the Executive Director of CTV Ltd.'s Bravo!FACT (Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent) since 1997.

TICKET AND THEATRE INFORMATION

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TJFF Box Office 17 Madison Avenue; Phone: 416-967-1528

Bloor Cinema 506 Bloor Street West at Bathurst

Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal JCC 750 Spadina Avenue at Bloor

Sheppard Grande Theatre 4861 Yonge St. at Sheppard

TO GET TICKETS

Important: Please note that prior to the Festival, advance orders can be picked up at the TJFF Box Office. During the Festival, all advance orders must be picked up at the venue of the first film chosen. Tickets will not be mailed out.

1. In person April 14 - May 2

TJFF Box Office, 17 Madison Avenue, Toronto Monday to Saturday 10am – 6pm, Sunday 12pm – 8pm

2. Online Ticket Orders April 14 - May 10 Please visit www.tjff.com, and follow the Buy Tickets link. Service charge is \$4.50 per order plus .25 cents per ticket. (TIP: If you and your friends combine orders, you will save on service charges.) To purchase the tickets online you should pre-select all of your films using the online Festival schedule before you click on "buy tickets." Once inside the online box office please click on "Place a New Order" and follow instructions. Tickets can be picked up 24 hours after ordering online. Please note free programmes cannot be booked online.

3. Phone Orders April 14 - May 10

Call to order tickets at 416-967-1528 and speak to box office staff. There is a service charge of \$3.50 per order plus .25 cents per ticket. (TIP: If you and your friends combine orders, you will save on service charges). As a reward for using this service any order over \$40 will receive one free weekday matinee screening ticket at the Bloor.

THE PASSES

The Most Flexible Pass \$140

(20 paid films/events, excluding Opening Night) Any combination, from 20 tickets for one film to 1 ticket for 20 films.

The Weekday Special \$60

(All films/events before 5pm, Monday to Friday) Limit 1 ticket per screening.

All passes and tickets are subject to availability. With a pass you still need to obtain a ticket for each screening. There will be no admittance 15 minutes after the start of a screening.

SINGLE TICKETS

Opening Night at the Bloor \$20

Please note that due to the busy nature of opening night, the box office at the Bloor Cinema on May 3rd will sell tickets for that night's show only.

General Admission \$12

Seniors/ Students \$7 (ID required)

Weekday Matinees \$7 (Monday - Friday, screenings before 5pm)

Free Student Admission subject to availability. 5 minutes prior to each screening, students with ID will be admitted for free from a "Rush Line."

Free Events: Tickets may be picked up between April 14 and May 2 at the TJFF office at 17 Madison Avenue. After May 2 they can be picked up prior to the event, in person, at any TJFF Box Office. Maximum 4 tickets per screening.

Passes and single ticket holders: All passes and tickets are subject to availability. With a pass you still need to obtain a ticket for each screening. There will be no admittance 15 minutes after the start of a screening. If the ticket and pass holder are not in their seats the seat will be considered to be free and released to our "rush" ticket buyers.

During the Festival all exchanges must be made in person. Sorry, no refunds. Service charges where applicable. Students and seniors may be required to show ID. Programmes are subject to change. All films are presented in their original language with English subtitles. All films are family friendly except where indicated. TJFF accepts Visa, MasterCard AMEX and cash.

FREE PROGRAMS

36 SHARON, LOIS AND BRAM: 25 YEARS OF SKINNAMARINK

Sun. May 4 > 11:00am > BC > FREE Join us as the Toronto Jewish Film Festival pays tribute to SHARON, LOIS & BRAM, with this free, ticketed programme. Sharon, Lois and Bram will perform live, followed by the marvelous TV special celebrating 25 years of entertaining children called "25 Years of Skinnamarink." After the screening, they will do a few more songs, followed by a question and answer period and an opportunity for autographs.

Limit of four tickets per family. Please pick up tickets at the TJFF Box Office after April 14.

17 DANNY KAYE: A LEGACY OF LAUGHTER

Fri. May 9 ▶ 2:30pm ▶ AG ▶ FREE

Danny Kaye's incredible proficiency in every aspect of show business was conveyed with a style and grace uniquely his own: song, dance, film acting, television variety, conducting symphony orchestras, UNICEF work – Danny Kaye could do it all. This PBS special includes extensive film clips as well as interviews with Mikhail Baryshnikov, Carl Reiner, Itzhak Perlman, Harry Belafonte, Rosemary Clooney and others.

21 HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

Sun. May 11 ▶ 1:00pm ▶ BC ▶ FREE TO CHILDREN UNDER 12

The TJFF is delighted to present this special screening for children and families. Danny Kaye stars as Hans Christian Andersen, the Danish storyteller whose beloved tales, including "The Ugly Duckling," "Thumbelina" and "The Little Mermaid" have brought joy to children for generations. This charming feature is also notable for its fabulous musical score by Frank Loesser.

PANGEA DAY

Check out www.pangeaday.org and watch our Web site for further developments, www.tjff.com.

FILMMATTERS

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival is pleased to announce an exciting new educational initiative that will allow schools to attend free screenings of films during the Festival and provide students with the chance to meet the filmmakers.

Through the generous support of the Trillium Foundation, the FilmMatters programme is dedicated to delivering anti-racist education through film. This year, we have selected four films that explore issues of religious and cultural diversity through a range of inspirational characters and stories. Each film reflects the values of anti-discrimination education articulated in the Ontario curriculum guidelines, specifically the expectation that students understand that taking a stand against racism and other expressions of hatred is a basic requirement of responsible citizenship.

The four films chosen for this year's programme are: Orthodox Stance (May 5), Anne and the Reverend (May 6), Arranged (May 8) and Blessed is the Match (May 9). Screenings will be held at 10:00am on each of these dates at the Bloor Cinema. For more information or to book tickets, contact filmmatters@tjff.ca.

Generously sponsored by:



ELLIE SKROW

Curator, Special Programmes



"All my humour is based on destruction and despair. If the whole world were tranquil, I'd be standing in the breadline, right back of J. Edgar Hoover." – From "The Essential Lenny Bruce," edited by J. Cohen, 1970.

"Tragedy is when you cut your finger. Comedy is when you fall down a manhole and die." – Mel Brooks

Why are Jews so funny? There are lots of theories. Some say that a history of oppression and an outsider perspective has a lot to do with comedy. Or... maybe it's a senseof-humour gene that's been passed on from generation to generation.

Whatever the reasons, the Jewish propensity to laugh and make other people laugh, has dominated the comedy landscape – at least in North America. From its roots in Yiddish theatre, transplanted by immigrant Jews, through vaudeville, the Borscht Belt era, stand-up comedy, and the history of film and television, humour created by Jews has virtually defined American comedy.

A "who's who" of Jewish comedy includes: Woody Allen, Neil Simon, Mel Brooks, The Marx Brothers, Billy Crystal, Eddie Cantor, Milton Berle, Zero Mostel, Walter Matthau, Albert Brooks, Shelley Berman, Alan King, Jack Benny, George Burns, Carl Reiner, Jerry Seinfeld... the list goes on and on and on.

COMEDY ON WRY: THE MAVERICKS has two objectives. First, the series puts the spotlight on Jewish icons that have had a particularly profound influence and impact in North America – genuine trailblazers who broke new ground and who have attained legendary status. They are: *Mike Nichols* and Elaine May; Lenny Bruce; Mort Sahl; Jackie Mason; Ernst Lubitsch; Danny Kaye; Will Eisner: Sid Caesar and his writers: Molly Picon; Sophie Tucker; Fanny Brice; Gilda Radner; Joan Rivers; Wendy Wasserstein; Gertrude Berg; and Don Rickles. The fact that some on this list are still going strong (a few in different capacities) is a testament to the enduring quality of their talent.

COMEDY ON WRY also includes works from three contemporary mavericks who hail from Israel, where some of the more interesting Jewish comedy is currently being generated: writer/director Etgar Keret, stand-up comic Christopher Yisrael Campbell and Arab-Israeli writer Sayed Kashua. Their inclusion is as much to provoke and broaden discussion of what "Jewish" comedy is, as it is to introduce their not-to-be-missed work to a TJFF audience. (It should be pointed out that Kashua is not Jewish, but the fact that he writes books and newspaper columns in Hebrew, and that he partnered with Israeli producer Danny Paran in creating a sitcom that sends up both Jews and Arab-Israelis, gives us programmers' license!)

Sometimes subversive (with a particular genius for sending up hypocrisy); often irreverent, witty and satirical; always totally original and intelligent – the work of these mavericks exemplifies a depth not evident in cheap, easy laughs that appeal to the lowest common denominator.

It has been suggested that Jewish comedy does not occupy the leading role it once did; that Jews have been usurped from centre stage at the comedy club by other ethnic minority groups. Others would argue that with the emergence of Larry David, Jon Stewart, Sarah Silverman, the British-born Sacha Baron Cohen (Borat), and the international mavericks in this series, Jewish comedy is entering a whole new and different phase – pushing the envelope once again.

Someone once said that comedy is serious business. If you want a good laugh, analyzing why something is funny may not be the best idea. Funny is funny...it just is. COMEDY ON WRY: THE MAVERICKS is designed ultimately to entertain, and to celebrate masters of the genre. We hope you enjoy the series.

The Comedy on Wry: The Mavericks series is made possible by the generous support of Shirley Granovsky.

INCLUDED IN COMEDY ON WRY: THE MAVERICKS SERIES ©

11	ARAB LABOR (2007)
16	CAESAR'S WRITERS (1996)
17	DANNY KAYE: A LEGACY OF LAUGHTER (1996)
18	ERNST LUBITSCH IN BERLIN (2006)
21	THE GOLDBERGS (1949–50)
21	HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN (1952)
23	IT'S NOT IN HEAVEN: THE COMEDY OF YISRAEL CAMPBELL (2007)
23	JACKIE MASON: THE ULTIMATE JEW (2008)
25	LENNY (1974)
26	MAKING TROUBLE (2006)
28	MORT SAHL: THE LOYAL OPPOSITION (1989)
28	MR. WARMTH: THE DON RICKLES PROJECT (2007)
30	A NEW LEAF (1971)
31	NICHOLS AND MAY: TAKE TWO (1996)
41	TO BE OR NOT TO BE (1942)
43	WILL EISNER: PORTRAIT OF THE SEQUENTIAL ARTIST (2007)
44	WRISTCUTTERS: A LOVE STORY (2006)

NOODLE

TORONTO PREMIERE ISRAEL 2007, 90 min Hebrew, with English subtitles Director: Ayelet Menahemi Cast: Mili Avital, Bao Qi Chen, Alon Abutbul Sat. May 3 → 9:30pm → BC Mon. May 5 → 8:30pm → SG



Israeli film star Mili Avital is Miri, whose Chinese domestic disappears while on an outing, leaving her young son, who was waiting for her in Miri's house, abandoned. After an extensive search, Miri discovers that the woman was apprehended and deported to Beijing from Israel because of illegal documentation. Miri is determined to reunite mother and son and devises an ingenious plan that takes advantage of her position as an flight attendant with EI-AI, which just happens to fly to Beijing. She faces many challenges – of language, customs and even food.

A light, upbeat film to kick off this year's Toronto Jewish Film Festival in real style – with appropriate snacks.

Guest: Director Ayelet Menahemi

PETE SEEGER: THE POWER OF SONG

USA 2007, 93 min Director: Jim Brown Sun. May 11 → 8:30pm → BC



There's magic in the air in this film about the folksinger, social activist, humanitarian, who is Pete Seeger. Seeger was not only an American original – he was an innovator and a leading player in the struggle for equality in American society during the twentieth century. Pete Seeger wrote the songs, he sang them and he encouraged an entire generation, including hundreds of thousands of Jews, to fight for their beliefs – whether it was to join labour unions, to fight for civil rights or to voice their opposition to the Viet Nam War. What better way to end our Festival than with a tribute to the life and times of a real mensch!

This screening is a tribute to Dusty Cohl, creative consultant to this, his last film before his passing.

Guest invited

Closing Night generously sponsored by:



ANNE AND THE REVEREND

TORONTO PREMIERE FRANCE 2007, 49 min French, Japanese, with English subtitles Director: Francois Uzan Sun. May 4 → 1:00pm → BC Wed. May 7 → 1:00pm → SG



As a young man, Rev. Makoto Otsuka, had a lifealtering encounter with Otto Frank, the father of Anne Frank. Inspired by what he heard, and after becoming a Christian minister, he undertook a mission to teach Anne's story to Japanese children. He built a Holocaust museum in Miyuki, near Hiroshima, dedicated it to the memory of the 1.5 million children murdered. He conducts tours for schoolchildren, teaching them about the dangers of racism and hatred. He even spent time in Israel, learning Hebrew and as we ride with him from one speaking engagement to another, you can hear him singing "Jerusalem of Gold."

Guest: Director Francois Uzan

SHOWN WITH

FROM ANNE FRANK'S WINDOW SHORT

USA 2008, 6 min Director: Ornit Barkai

Readings from Anne Frank's diary accompanied by scenes of a visit to the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam.

Generously sponsored by: The Leonard Wolinsky Foundation

ARAB LABOR 😕

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2007, 72 min Hebrew, Arabic, with English subtitles Director: Ron Ninio Writer: Sayed Kashua Wed. May 7 > 7:30pm > AG



This breakthrough TV sitcom, conceived by producer Danny Paran and written by Arab-Israeli scribe Sayed Kashua, is a phenomenal hit in Israel. Kashua is known for his novels (Dancing Arabs) and the satiric columns he writes in Hebrew for Haaretz. The TV series centres on a young Arab couple, Amjad and Bushra, who live on the outskirts of Jerusalem with their two children. Amjad (much like Kashua) is a journalist who works for a Hebrew newspaper and desperately seeks to assimilate into the prevailing Jewish Israeli culture. Often compared with "All in the Family," Arab Labor mirrors the racism and ignorance on both sides. It's also very, very funny and not-to-be-missed. (TJFF will screen three episodes)

Guest: Yael Seliger, Lecturer, Hebrew Literature, York University

ARRANGED

TORONTO PREMIERE USA 2007, 92 min English, Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles Directors: Diane Crespo, Stefan C. Schaefer Cast: Zoe Lister-Jones, Francis Benhamou, Doris Belack, Mimi Lieber, Daniel London, Laith Nakli, Alysia Reiner, John Tothman. Fri. May 9 → 1:00pm → BC



Are arranged marriages a thing of the past, or is there still a place for such things in modern society? A sweet comedy about two young women – Rochelle, an Orthodox Jew, and Nasira, a Muslim, who meet as first year teachers in a public school in Brooklyn. Although they come from different cultures, they discover that they have much in common. Both of them, for example, are going through the process of having marriages arranged by their families, and are uncomfortable with the idea. This leads to a wonderful friendship as they share each other's family lives. An interesting dilemma of cultural adaptation to new ideas in a new world.

Guests invited

Weekday matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SPONSOR

ARTHUR SZYK – ILLUMINATOR

CANADIAN PREMIERE POLAND 2005, 55 min Polish, with English subtitles Director: Pietr Zarebski **Tue.** May 6 > 6:00pm > BC **Thu.** May 8 > 1:00pm > SG



One of the greatest miniaturist illuminators of the past 400 years was Arthur Szyk. Born in Lodz, Poland in 1894, he began drawing at age 6. He was world renowned for the creation of his Passover Haggadah, which was first printed in London in 1940. Szyk was also the illuminator of what has been called the "Jewish Magna Carta" – the Statute of Kalisz, which guaranteed "civil and religious privileges" to the Jews of Poland in the early middle ages. He made his home in such diverse places as Poland, Paris and London, and finally emigrated to the United States in 1940. Szyk died in 1951 but his artistic legacy lives on. This biographical film is filled with his stunning "illuminations" and the story behind them.

SHOWN WITH

THE PHOTOHOUSE SHORT

ISRAEL 2007, 21 min Hebrew, with English subtitles Director: Tamar Tal

There is a small photo-shop in Tel Aviv where a 93year-old woman watches over a treasure trove of photographs that tell the entire story of the Israeli nation.

Generously sponsored by: Eleanor Dover

AT HOME IN UTOPIA

USA 2008, 57 min Director: Michal Goldman Sun. May 4 → 11:00am → AG Mon. May 5 → 3:30pm → SG



In the 1920s, hundreds of Jewish garment workers undertook an amazing experiment: fleeing the claustrophobic and harsh environment of tenement life, they built four large cooperative apartment complexes amidst the greenery of the Bronx. This passionate documentary focuses on one of the buildings, the United Workers Cooperative Colony ("the coops"), a house for Communist Jews. Among the film's interviews with various children who came of age in the coops is architect Daniel Libeskind. These owners developed an apartment complex for over seven hundred families and invited black families to join them because they felt their community was too white.

SHOWN WITH

YOSL CUTLER AND HIS PUPPETS SHORT

USA 1935, 18 min Yiddish, with English subtitles

"Half modernist, half folk artist, Yosl Cutler is one of the more intriguing figures associated with the lost world of Communist Yiddish culture" (J. Hoberman, Bridge of Light: Yiddish Film Between Two Worlds). This rare film offers modern audiences a glimpse of Cutler's lively and satiric marionette sketches.

AVIVA MY LOVE

ISRAEL 2006, 107 min Hebrew, with English subtitles Cast: Assi Levy, Rotem Abuhab, Levana Finkelstein, Dror Keren, Sasson Gabai, Dana Ivgy Director: Shemi Zarhin Sun. May 4 → 6:00pm → SG



The story of an imaginative, talented woman, who supports her family as a cook, but dreams of becoming a successful writer. Her aspirations are challenged by an unemployed husband, two rebellious teenage children, an obstinate, unpredictable mother and a sister who is struggling to save a difficult marriage. A way out of her desperate situation appears when Aviva meets a well-known author who agrees to help get her work published. Aviva realizes that the author's intentions may be less than noble and she must make some decisions that could pit her family's interests against her own dreams.

BAD FAITH (MAUVAISE FOI)

TORONTO PREMIERE FRANCE/BELGIUM 2006, 88 min French, with English subtitles Director: Roschdy Zem Cast: Roschdy Zem, Cecile De France, Pascal Elbe, Jean-Pierre Cassel Mon. May 5 → 8:30pm → BC Wed. May 7 → 3:30pm → SG



Can a Jewish woman and an Arab man fall in love and live happily ever after? That's the question raised by this film. Although the couple is not religious, will their differences eventually drive them apart? And, will their families accept their children marrying outside of their religion? This comedy tries to deal with these questions and also make us think. At the same time, it is a beautiful film to watch. So, sit back and enjoy!

Generously sponsored by:

Wealth and Risk Management Gluskin



BEAUFORT

ISRAEL 2007, 125 min Hebrew, with English subtitles Director: Joseph Cedar Cast: Oshri Cohen, Itay Tiran, Eli Eltonyo, Ohad Knoller, Itay Turgeman, Arthur Perzev, Itai Schor. Sun. May 4 → 8:30pm → BC



On a mountaintop in southern Lebanon sits Beaufort Castle, originally built by the invading Crusaders. In 1982 Israeli special forces waged a bloody battle to occupy the position. Now in the year 2000, the castle has lost most of its strategic value. Israeli troops are evacuating Lebanon, but a small group of soldiers is still stationed in the fort, under continual rocket and missile bombardment. Israeli soldiers are dying and being maimed in defense of a military position that has lost all its meaning. Beaufort is an accurate account of the events that occurred in the months before the Israeli withdrawal. It is an intense and gripping film.

2008 Academy Award ® nominee for best foreign film.

Generously sponsored by: Marsha Bronfman

BETWEEN TWO NOTES

CANADA 2006, 52 min Arabic, French, Hebrew, with English subtitles Director: Florence Strauss **Tue.** May 6 → Noon → AG



This film visits some of the centres of Arab music, including Egypt, Iraq and the Baka'a Valley in Lebanon and shows how Jewish influences have affected Arab music and how Arab influences have affected Jewish music. The Jews who originated in the Arab world are now living between the two heritages. Are Mizrahi music and Jewish music from the Arab countries a possible bridge between Jews and Arabs? And can some of these influences lead to a reconciliation between the two peoples?

Guest: Producer Amit Breuer

Weekday matinees presented by: TORONITO STAR OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SPONSOR

BLESSED IS THE MATCH: THE LIFE AND DEATH OF HANNAH SENESH

WORLD PREMIERE USA 2008, 81 min Hebrew, Hungarian, with English subtitles Director: Roberta Grossman Sun. May 11 → 6:00pm → BC



Hannah Senesh was a young Jewish poet from Hungary who became a committed Zionist after facing discrimination during her high school days. After emigrating to Palestine, Hannah volunteered for a special unit in the British Army; parachuted into occupied Yugoslavia; and made her way back to Hungary. Hannah was arrested shortly thereafter, was tortured and executed. Her body was later transferred to Israel and laid to rest next to the state's heroes. This film contains never before seen clips and photos from the time and interviews with people who knew her – members of her family and well-known historians such as Martin Gilbert.

Guest: Director Roberta Grossman

Generously co-sponsored by: The ShaRna Foundation and Facing History and Ourselves, Canada

CAESAR'S WRITERS

USA 1996, 120 min Director: Michael Hirsh Sun. May 11 → 5:00pm → AG



Sid Caesar, at age 85, is arguably the most influential maverick in the Comedy on Wry series. "Your Show of Shows" (and later "Caesar's Hour") were landmarks in the heady days of live television, setting the standard for comedy writing and performance. Starring Caesar, Imogene Coca, Howard Morris and others, the classic comedy sketches, interspersed with music and dance numbers, were truly groundbreaking. A videotaped recording of the remarkable reunion of Sid Caesar and his writers, including Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner, Larry Gelbart, Neil Simon, Mel Tolkin and others (minus Woody Allen, who also wrote for Caesar) result in this revealing, hilarious, behind-the-scenes look at comedy brilliance.

Guest invited

The Comedy on Wry: The Mavericks series is made possible by the generous support of Shirley Granovsky.

THE CHAMPAGNE SPY (MERAGEL HA-SHAMPANIYA)

ISRAEL/GERMANY 2007, 90 min Hebrew, with English subtitles Director: Nadav Schirman **Sun.** May 11 > 11:00am > AG



Wolfgang Lotz was an Israeli spy who took on the role of a German aristocrat and horse-lover. He befriended the most important Egyptian officials, took them into his home and uncovered many of Egypt's most important military secrets. He then transmitted this information to Mossad headquarters in Israel. He was instrumental in thwarting Egyptian attempts to use German rocket scientists to develop a missile threat against Israel. Lotz lived a double life, but was eventually arrested by the Egyptians and repatriated to Israel in a very secretive prisoner exchange after the Six Day War. A tale of mystery and intrigue that will keep you spellbound!

SHOWN WITH

ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE (HAMOSAD HASAGUR) SHORT

ISRAEL 2007, 39 min Cast: Ron Shahar, Lana Ettinger, Ilan Dor Hebrew, with English subtitles Director: Alon Gur Arye

A comic spoof of the Israeli intelligence services and the work they do around the world.

CHILDREN OF TEHERAN

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2007, 63 min Hebrew, with English subtitles Directors: Yehuda Kaveh, David Tour, Dalia Guttman **Wed.** May 7 > 2:30pm > AG



After the Nazi occupation of Poland, thousands of Jewish families fled into the Soviet Union, and were shipped to labour camps in Siberia. Subsequently many went to Central Asia, where many died of hunger and disease. To save their children, some Jewish parents placed them in Christian orphanages. When Polish troops were shipped to the battlefields via Teheran many of the children from the Christian orphanages accompanied them. The Jewish Agency sent emissaries to Teheran and in February 1943, 700 Jewish children arrived in Palestine. This is the remarkable, mostly forgotten story of these Children of Teheran.

SHOWN WITH

HOMELAND SHORT

ISRAEL 2006, 40 min Hebrew, Yiddish, with English subtitles Director: Dani Rosenberg

A young Holocaust survivor who speaks only Yiddish is assigned to a military outpost in the desert shortly after arriving in Israel.

Weekday matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SPONSOR

DANNY KAYE: A LEGACY OF LAUGHTER 😁

USA 1996, 60 min Director: Bob Marty Fri. May 9 → 2:30pm → AG → FREE



"The pellet with the poison's in the vessel with the pestle; the chalice from the palace..." (Danny Kaye, from *"The Court Jester"*).

Danny Kaye was not just adept at language and the art of "double-speak." His incredible proficiency in every aspect of show business was conveyed with a style and grace uniquely his own: song, dance, film acting, television variety, conducting symphony orchestras, UNICEF work – Danny Kaye could do it all. With his writing collaborator (and wife) Sylvia Fine, Danny Kaye left an indelible impression as one of the world's most beloved entertainers. This PBS special includes extensive film clips as well as interviews with Mikhail Baryshnikov, Carl Reiner, Itzhak Perlman, Harry Belafonte, Rosemary Clooney and others. (Note: see also Hans Christian Andersen, Sun. May 11 > 1:00pm > BC)

Guest invited

Weekday matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SPONSOR

DANS LA VIE (TWO LADIES)

FRANCE 2007, 73 min
French, with English subtitles
Director: Philippe Faucon
Cast: Sabrina Ben Abdallah, Ariane Jacquot,
Zohra Mouffok, Hocine Nini
Fri. May 9 → 3:30pm → BC
Sun. May 11 → 1:00pm → SG



An elderly Jewish woman needs assistance in her daily routine, but her son's work requires him to leave town for a while, so he arranges for an Arab woman to be caregiver to his cantankerous mother while he is away. At first glance it appears to be a collision of cultures, and a recipe for disaster, but as their stories unfold, it becomes evident that they have more in common than they thought. For example, both of them come from the same town in Algeria. By the time the Jewish woman's son returns, the story has taken a wonderful turn! A lovely French comedy.

Weekday matinees presented by: **TORONTO STAR**

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SPONSOR

ERNST LUBITSCH IN BERLIN 😕

GERMANY 2006, 110 min English, German, with English subtitles Director: Robert Fischer Mon. May 5 → 2:00pm → AG



Renowned as an Academy Award[®] – winning Hollywood director (Ninotchka, The Shop Around the Corner), Ernst Lubitsch began his career as an actor/comedian in Germany as part of the famous Max Reinhardt ensemble. He went on to star in, and direct a series of silent German films, including several comedies featuring a Chaplinesque Jewish character of his own creation (Shoe Palace Pincus, Meyer from Berlin). Lubitsch's "subtle humour and virtuoso visual wit" (Ephraim Katz, The Film Encyclopedia) became known as "the Lubitsch touch." This comprehensive documentary guides us through the masterful artist's early career, featuring extensive and rare archival film clips as well as interviews with his daughter Nicola Lubitsch, film directors Dani Levy, Tom Tykwer, Wolfgang Becker and others.

Weekday matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SPONSOR

FATHERLAND

CANADA 2006, 77 min English, German, with English subtitles Director: Manfred Becker Wed. May 7 → Noon → AG



His classmates call a high school boy, of German descent, a Nazi when his school is studying Anne Frank. Although the father came to Canada when he was in his 20s, so that he could leave racism behind, including the prejudices of his own German father, he now has to deal with his son's insecurities around being German. On a scheduled visit back to Germany for his son to meet his grandfather, he worries about protecting his son from his father's prejudices. He is caught in a different kind of sandwich generation. An interesting story about fathers and sons.

Guest invited

Weekday matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SPONSOR

THE FIRST BASKET

CANADIAN PREMIERE USA 2008, 86 min Director: David Vyorst Sun. May 11 → 2:00pm → AG



Did you know that the first basket scored in the league that would later become the NBA was scored by a Jewish player and that the first game was played in Toronto? Peter Riegert narrates this exciting documentary about the early days of basketball and how it grew from a Jewish game to one that is enjoyed around the world. Many of basketball's early stars came from the Lower East Side in New York. and other Jewish areas of the United States. Players such as Red Auerback, Ossie Schectman, and others dominated the game. Relive the heyday of Jewish basketball!

SHOWN WITH

JEWISH WOMEN IN AMERICAN SPORTS: SETTLEMENT HOUSES TO THE OLYMPICS SHORT

Director: Shuli Eshel

Tells about the vital role Jewish women have played as athletes, administrators and activists from the 1880s into the 21st century.

The Jews in Sports series is made possible by the generous support of Stephen and Cookie Sandler.

FROZEN DAYS

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2005, 90 min Hebrew, with English subtitles Director: Danny Lerner Cast: Anat Klausner, Sandra Sade, Uli Sternberg, Pini Tavger, Maor Cohen, Karin Mirey Ben-Yaacov Thu. May 8 → 10:30pm → AG



The film opens with a drug-dealing girl whose motor scooter is stolen while she is visiting a client. After a terrorist bombing takes place, she runs away, and moves into the apartment of a man who was critically injured in the attack. She feels guilty, as he was only there because of her, but then he disappears and she takes over his identity. Shot arrestingly, in black and white, this is a strangely compelling film.

Warning: This film contains some nudity.

SHOWN WITH

ROADS SHORT

ISRAEL 2007, 22 min Arabic, Hebrew, with English subtitles Director: Lior Geller

An Arab boy in Lod gets mixed up in drug trafficking. When the dealer he works for brings his little brother into the ring, the older boy tries to rescue his brother from the clutches of the Arab underworld.

GLOOMY SUNDAY

GERMANY/HUNGARY 1999, 110 min German, English, Hungarian Director: Rolf Schubel Cast: Ben Becker, Stefano Dionisi, Joachim Krol, Erika Marozsan Sun. May 4 → 1:00pm → 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.

THE GOLDBERGS 😕

USA 1949-50, 60 min Director: Walter Hart Cast: Gertrude Berg, Philip Loeb, Eli Mintz **Fri.** May 9 → Noon → AG



Two episodes of the immensely popular TV series, starring Gertrude Berg as Molly Goldberg, the quintessential Jewish matriarch. Berg was the creator of The Goldbergs – its writer, producer and star – a remarkable feat for a woman at the time. From her Bronx tenement flat, the beloved Molly dispenses wisdom and advice while nurturing her Jewish family. The Goldbergs plan to send a family portrait to their European relatives, and Molly meddles in the life of a British hairdresser.

SHOWN WITH

YOO HOO, MRS. GOLDBERG SHORT

Work-in-progress, 20 min

Aviva Kempner's (The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg) work-in-progress on the life and career of the extraordinary Gertrude Berg.

Weekday matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR

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The Comedy on Wry: The Mavericks series is made possible by the generous support of Shirley Granovsky.

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN 😁

USA 1952, 120 min Director: Charles Vidor Writers: Myles Connolly, Moss Hart, Ben Hecht Cast: Danny Kaye, Farley Granger, Zizi Jeanmaire, Joseph Walsh, Erik Bruhn, Roland Petit **Sun.** May 11 → 1:00pm → BC



The TJFF is delighted to present this special screening for children and families. Danny Kaye stars as Hans Christian Andersen, the Danish storyteller whose beloved tales, including "The Ugly Duckling," "Thumbelina" and "The Little Mermaid" have brought joy to children for generations. This charming feature is also notable for its fabulous musical score by Frank Loesser. (Note: see also Danny Kaye: A Legacy of Laughter, Fri. May 9 → 2:30pm → AG)

Guest invited

A HEBREW LESSON

ISRAEL 2006, 117 min Director: David Ofek Mon. May 5 → 1:00pm → SG



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.

THE HOUSE ON AUGUST STREET

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2007, 63 min Hebrew, German, with English subtitles Director: Ayelet Bargur Thu. May 8 → Noon → AG



Beate Berger founder of "Beith Ahawah Kinderheim" in Berlin in 1922, a home for Jewish children in need, had the foresight and determination to save her children from the Nazis. She brought them to the new "Ahawah" home she built in the Haifa area of Palestine. While Beate Berger succeeded in rescuing several hundred children, she also gave them the things they needed most: love, hope and security. Join two of the orphan children as they go back in time, and relive the years they spent on August Street.

SHOWN WITH

MY LOVE MY LOVE SHORT ISRAEL 2006, 15 min Director: Igal Peeri

A romantic story about young love and a young man doing his military service in Lebanon. The film is made up of stills and film clips and is narrated in English.

Weekday matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR

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IT'S NOT IN HEAVEN: THE COMEDY OF YISRAEL CAMPBELL AKA CIRCUMCISE ME 😅

ISRAEL 2007, 44 min Directors: David Blumenfeld, Matthew Kalman Mon. May 5 → 5:00pm → AG



He was born Christopher Campbell, in Philadelphia...a Catholic, who became an Orthodox Jew. (It only took three conversions!) He's now a standup comic who sports the traditional garb of an observant Jew, and lives and works in Jerusalem. Campbell's style and routines are completely original. Excerpts from his shows are interspersed with the story of his personal quest to find meaning in religion. Campbell's been interviewed by Rolling Stone and Steven Colbert, and his one-man show "You Can Never Be Too Jewish" is slated for Off-Broadway this year.

Guests: Director David Blumenfeld and Yisrael Campbell

SHOWN WITH

888-GO-KOSHER SHORT

USA 2007, 11 min Director: Lauren Shweder Biel

An emergency rapid response koshering service that is always on call.

The Comedy on Wry: The Mavericks series is made possible by the generous support of Shirley Granovsky.

JACKIE MASON: THE ULTIMATE JEW 😁

WORLD PREMIERE CANADA 2008, 94 min Director: Barry Avrich Writer: Jackie Mason **Sun.** May 4 > 8:30pm > AG



Filmmaker Barry Avrich's (*The Last Mogul: Life and Times of Lew Wasserman*) documentary record of Jackie Mason's "farewell" 2008 New York show. The controversial comedian, who comes from a long line of rabbis, is known for taking borscht belt style humour to politically incorrect extremes – pushing the boundaries with impeccable timing and aggressive, stand-up delivery. Mason's one-man comedy show took Broadway by storm years ago. Here, he takes on contemporary issues, with bits on Elliot Spitzer, Barack Obama and other political figures.

Guest: Director Barry Avrich

JELLYFISH (MEDUZOT)

ISRAEL/FRANCE 2007, 78 min Hebrew, French, with English subtitles Cast: Sarah Adler, Nikol Leidman, Gera Sandler, Noa Knoller, Ma-nenita de Latorre, Ilanit Ben Yaakov, Assi Dayan Directors: Shira Geffen, Etgar Keret **Thu.** May 8 → 8:00pm → BC



A magical film that is both funny and serious with coincidence playing a major role. The lives of four women living in the modern metropolis of Tel Aviv are front and centre with the problems they have communicating, their loneliness and their feelings of being different and unusual. Then one of them, Batya, who works as a waitress in a catering hall, meets a five-year old girl coming out of the sea. Is this girl real, or is she merely a figment of the woman's imagination? Or is the girl just a way of moving the story in a direction that will bring meaning into the life of the woman?

Winner of the Camera d'Or at Cannes for best debut.

Generously sponsored by:



Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University

JERUSALEM IS PROUD TO PRESENT

ISRAEL 2007, 82 min Director: Nitzan Gilady Mon. May 5 → 10:30pm → AG Wed. May 7 → 8:30pm → SG



During the summer of 2006, Jerusalem was to be the site of the World Pride celebrations, culminating with a traditional gay pride parade. When word of these plans got out, Jewish, Muslim and Christian religious leaders joined forces, maybe for the first time ever, to oppose these events and thwart the activities. Follow the battle from the council chambers of Jerusalem City Hall, to the activists planning the celebration and see how threats of violence forced the participants to change the nature of the event.

Co-presented with:

LENNY 🙂

USA 1974, 111 min, B/W Director: Bob Fosse Writer: Julian Barry Cast: Dustin Hoffman, Valerie Perrine, Jan Miner, Gary Morton Sat. May 10 → 9:15pm → AG



Lenny Bruce was a controversial comic, social critic, maverick crusader, and a legend. The TJFF presented the documentary, Lenny Bruce: Swear To Tell The Truth, several years ago. Here's a chance to see the brilliant, rarely-screened feature directed by Bob Fosse, with unforgettable performances by Dustin Hoffman as Lenny Bruce and Valerie Perrine as his stripper wife, Honey Harlow. Interweaving actual bits from Bruce's groundbreaking club routines and a documentary style approach, Lenny is "... artful, imaginative" (Los Angeles Times) and "a jagged portrait of a man driven to mainlining honesty into the arteries of a hypocritical culture." (Newsweek)

Warning: Nudity and coarse language.

Guest invited

The Comedy on Wry: The Mavericks series is made possible by the generous support of Shirley Granovsky.

THE LIGHT AHEAD (FISHKE THE LAME)

USA 1939, 94 min Director: Edgar G. Ulmer Yiddish, with English subtitles Cast: David Opatoshu, Helen Beverly **Sun.** May 11 > 11:00am > BC



Based on a story by S.Y. Mendele Mokher Seforim, The Light Ahead reflects the artistic peak of American Yiddish film. It is both a fierce attack on shtetl life and a deeply romantic tale set in a small town that has been kept in the darkness of poverty and superstition by its leading citizens. David Opatoshu and Helen Beverly are luminous as Fishke and Hodel, two passionate but poor and physically disabled lovers who dream of a better life. Produced in 1939, the film's desperate plea for the fate of the Jewish people, as well as Edgar Ulmer's (director of film noir classic, Detour) moody cinematography, which has been immaculately restored by the National Center for Jewish Film, reflect a deep awareness of the world events that will soon devour European Jewry.

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

MAHARAL (OUR TREASURE)

CANADIAN PREMIERE CZECH REPUBLIC 2007, 103 min Czech, with English subtitles Director: Pavel Jandourek Cast: Matej Hadek, Maros Kramar, Tomas Materna, Borivol Navratil, Adriana Neubauerova, Barbora Seidlova Wed. May 7 → 1:00pm → BC Thu. May 8 → 6:00pm → SG



Three children are on a treasure hunt that leads them to the mysterious places of old Prague. Originally hidden by the Emperor, the secret of the treasure was entrusted into the care of a rabbi. Four hundred years later, a young girl discovers clues to the secret, and she and her friends begin the hunt, not knowing that the treasure is protected by a Golem created specifically by that rabbi. Shades of Indiana Jones!

Weekday matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SPONSOR

MAKING TROUBLE 😕

USA 2006, 85 min Director: Rachel Talbot Thu. May 8 → 1:00pm → BC



"I've been rich and I've been poor. Believe me, Honey, rich is better." – Sophie Tucker, "The Last of the Red Hot Mamas"

Molly Picon, Fanny Brice, Sophie Tucker, Joan Rivers, Gilda Radner and playwright Wendy Wasserstein are profiled in this entertaining portrait of three generations of funny women who paved the way in a maledominated industry. Terrific archival clips, narration and interviews are interspersed with comments from a group of contemporary comediennes (including Judy Gold) who meet at a deli, à la "Broadway Danny Rose," and exchange views on the prodigious talent and influence of these remarkable pioneers. Produced by the Jewish Women's Archive.

Guest invited

Weekday matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SPONSOR

MATZO & MISTLETOE

USA 2007, 58 min Director: Kate Feiffer **Thu.** May 8 → 4:30pm → AG



Being a Jew is a matter of struggling with your Jewish identity and many Jews in America seem to be doing this. This film is a fascinating look at secular, non-affiliated Jews and their connection to Judaism. Many of them grew up in homes that had a Christmas tree as well as Chanukiahs. They often celebrate the rituals and observances of Christian holidays as well as Jewish ones. Are these assimilated Jews a vanishing species, or do they simply have a way of looking at their Judaism through a different lens? Jules Feiffer, father of the filmmaker, offers fascinating observations and comments on his own upbringing.

Guest: Director Kate Feiffer

SHOWN WITH

SONG OF SLOMAN SHORT

CANADA 2008, 17 min Director: Emmanuel Shirinian

A rabbi experiences a crisis in faith. He goes to a gay bar, takes up drinking and even eats bacon. His world collapses around him and his congregation becomes very upset with him.

Weekday matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SPONSOR

MAX MINSKY AND ME

GERMANY 2007, 94 min German, with English subtitles, Cast: Zoe Moore, Emil Reinke, Adriana Altaras, Jan Josef Liefers Directed by: Anne Justice Sun. May 4 → 1:00pm → AG Tue. May 6 → 6:00pm → SG



Nelly is a studious 13-year-old Jewish girl living in Berlin who is preparing for her Bat Mitzvah and has a crush on the prince of Luxembourg, who shares her interest in astronomy and outer space. When Nelly learns her school basketball team is going to Luxembourg to compete in a tournament sponsored by the prince, she decides to try out and calls on 16-year-old Max Minsky to help hone her basketball skills. In return she agrees to do his homework.

MORT SAHL: THE LOYAL OPPOSITION 😁

USA 1989, 87 min Writer/Director: Robert B. Weide **Tue.** May 6 > 10:00pm > AG



"A political satirist's job is to draw blood. I'm not so much interested in politics as I am in overthrowing the government." – Mort Sahl

Mort Sahl was the very first. Without precedent, he pioneered a form of critical satire - never underestimating his audience's ability to think – that inspired Lenny Bruce, Nichols and May, Woody Allen and so many others. With his trademark sweater and rolled up newspaper, Sahl took on current affairs issues with wit and intelligence, in a caustic "stream of conscience" monologue. This exceptional documentary follows the career of the Montreal-born comedian, from his beginnings in the '50s at the famed Hungry i in San Francisco, through his JFK years (both writing jokes for and later satirizing Kennedy), to his role in Jim Garrison's assassination investigation team, the fallout from his barbs at the Warren Commission, and beyond.

Guest: Jake Labow, Comedy Impresario

The Comedy on Wry: The Mavericks series is made possible by the generous support of Shirley Granovsky.

MR. WARMTH: The don Rickles project 😁

CANADIAN PREMIERE USA 2007, 89 min Director: John Landis Mon. May 5 → 6:15pm → BC



How does he get away with it? Don Rickles, master of the comic insult and a legend at age 81, is still packing them in at casinos across the country. Rickles' legions of celebrity fans revere him. They're all featured in this marvellous, star-studded homage by Hollywood director John Landis (Blues Brothers, Trading Places) that intersperses Rickles' Las Vegas act and TV appearances, with clips from his acclaimed acting career (Kelly's Heroes, Run Silent, Run Deep), and hilarious interviews with the likes of Martin Scorsese, Clint Eastwood, Bob Newhart, Chris Rock, Sarah Silverman, Sidney Poitier and Robin Williams, among others. "Mr. Warmth qualifies as mustsee viewing, even for those who have never particularly liked Rickles' shtick." – Variety

Guest invited

MY FATHER MY LORD (HOFSHAT KAITS)

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2007, 72 min Hebrew, with English Subtitles Director: David Volach Cast: Assi Dayan, Ilan Griff, Sharon Hacohen Thu. May 8 → 6:00pm → BC Fri. May 9 → 3:30pm → SG



A hauntingly beautiful film set in Jerusalem's Orthodox community, about a middle-aged Torah scholar and his younger wife who dote on their only child, a sweet and innocent little boy. This film explores the conflict between the demands of a man's religion versus his obligations to his family as tragedy unfolds. A film that will remain in your soul.

Tribeca Award for Best Narrative Feature.

MY MEXICAN SHIVA

MEXICO 2007, 98 min Spanish, Yiddish, Hebrew, with English subtitles Cast: Blanca Guerra, Martha Roth, Sergio Kleiner, Guillermo Murray, Martin LaSalle, Raquel Pankowsky, David Ostrosky Director: Alejandro Springall **Sun.** May 4 > 3:30pm > SG



After Moishe's sudden and dramatic death, his dysfunctional family and friends gather to sit shiva and to celebrate his life. Set in a Jewish section of Mexico City, this dramatic comedy takes a humorous and unconventional look at the actions and reactions of various family members and friends. You will laugh through your tears!

MY OPPOSITION: THE DIARIES OF FRIEDRICH KELLNER

CANADA 2007, 65 min German, English, with English subtitles Directors: Fern Levitt, Arnie Zipursky **Tue.** May 6 → 7:30pm → AG



Friedrich Kellner was a junior judicial officer in Nazi Germany. Abhorring the policies of the regime, he wrote a series of diaries intended to alert people to the dangers of totalitarian ideologies. His grandson, Robert Scott Kellner, while a young petty officer in the United States Navy, sought out his grandparents, coming away with the diaries that they had kept. He promised to use the diaries as a weapon against fascism and racism. Join us for this fascinating journey that takes us from a small city in Germany to a Jewish orphanage in New Jersey and back to Germany.

Guest: Dr. Robert Scott Kellner

SHOWN WITH

BATTLE OF CABLE STREET SHORT

UK 2006, 8 min Director: Yoav Segal

A partly animated short, recollecting the demonstrations against British Fascist leader, Oswald Mosley, prior to World War II.

Generously sponsored by:



A NEW LEAF 😕

USA 1971, 102 min Director: Elaine May Writer: Elaine May, based on Jack Ritchie's story "The Green Heart" Cast: Walter Matthau, Elaine May, Jack Weston, Doris Roberts, James Coco, Renee Taylor **Tue.** May 6 ▶ 1:00pm ▶ BC



Elaine May's directorial debut is a gem of a romantic comedy – sweet without being sentimental, very, very funny and perceptive about the darker side of human nature. Walter Matthau stars as Henry Graham, a snobbish, highliving playboy who squanders all his money. He sees his ticket to wealth in the guise of Henrietta Lowell, a socially awkward botanist (Elaine May) who happens to be an heiress to a fortune. Intending to marry and then kill her, Henry finds a kindred eccentric in this trusting soul, who drinks Mogen David Extra Heavy Malaga wine ("every year is good").

Weekday matinees presented by: **TORONTO STAR**

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SPONSOR

NICHOLS AND MAY: TAKE TWO 😕

USA 1996, 60 min Director: Phillip Schopper Sun. May 4 → 3:30pm → AG



Before they split up to pursue independent careers, director Mike Nichols and writer/director Elaine May were a brilliant comedy team who revolutionized the comedy landscape of the '50s and '60s. The pair's irreverent satire, masterful improvisations, and impeccably timed irony were breathtakingly funny... and totally new. Includes complete Nichols and May routines, as well as interviews with Steve Martin, Tom Brokaw, Richard Lewis, Jules Feiffer and Arthur Penn, who talk about the duo's talent and wit, and their profound impact. (Note: see also A NEW LEAF)

Guest: Melody Johnson, Actor/Teacher, Humber School of Comedy

SHOWN WITH

MUNRO SHORT

USA 1960, 9 min Director: Gene Deitch Writer: Jules Feiffer

Jules Feiffer's Academy Award®-winning animated film about a four-year-old boy drafted into the army. Voiced by Howard Morris.

The Comedy on Wry: The Mavericks series is made possible by the generous support of Shirley Granovsky.

NO EXIT

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2006, 90 min Director: Dror Sabo Cast: Gal Zaid, Ofer Shechter, Noa Barkai, Amnon Wolf, Mali Levi-Gershon, Michael Moshonov **Tue.** May 6 ▶ 8:30pm ▶ SG



Go behind the scenes of an Israeli television reality series that requires new and ever more outrageous gimmicks to continue drawing viewers. The creator of the show, Zacky Reibenbach, turns to Yehuda, a film student from the university because he has documented the rehabilitation of his friend, Ethan, who became blind during his military service. Zacky wants ten beautiful women to compete for the blind man's affections, without their knowing that he is blind. This is the ultimate reality show with twists and turns and the unabashed manipulation of the truth that permeates reality television. It will keep you spellbound until the end.

OPERATION MURAL – CASABLANCA 1961

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2007, 55 min English, Hebrew, French, with English subtitles Director: Yehuda Kaveh **Tue.** May 6 → 3:30pm → BC



Israeli intelligence agents rarely talk about their exploits, but here, three Mossad agents return to Casablanca with David Littman to retrace the events of their clandestine mission in 1961 to rescue 530 Jewish children and transport them to Israel. The participants relive their roles in "Operation Mural." Many of the rescued children and key Mossad agents tell their stories in this rare look into the world of secret agents. So secret, in fact, that David Littman had no idea he was working with Mossad, until after the operation was complete.

SHOWN WITH

JULOT (MARBLES) SHORT

ISRAEL 2005, 3 min Director: Maya Tiberman

An innovative film about a little girl playing with marbles. As one rolls away the girl chases after it and magical things happen all around her.

Weekday matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SPONSOR

ORTHODOX STANCE

CANADIAN PREMIERE USA 2007, 83 min Director: Jason Scott Hutt Sun. May 4 → 3:30pm → BC Tue. May 6 → 3:30pm → SG



"If anyone wants a wupping from me, they will have to wait until after sundown." These are the words of Dmitriy Salita, a young Russian immigrant who is pursuing a professional boxing career while also being devoted to Orthodox Judaism. Sounds like a contradiction, but Dmitriy makes it all work. He is careful to keep kosher, even when on the road, and he refuses to fight on Shabbat. Undefeated in the ring, he is hoping for a title shot in the near future. With all these factors in play, this becomes more than a film about boxing and religion – it is a powerful story about a young man's search for meaning in life.

Guest: Director Jason Scott Hutt

The Jews in Sports series is made possible by the generous support of Stephen and Cookie Sandler.

PAYING FOR JUSTICE

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2007, 58 min English, Hebrew, with English subtitles Directors: Guy Meroz, Orli Vilnai-Federbush **Sun.** May 4 → 6:00pm → BC



The heartbreaking story of elderly Holocaust survivors in Israel who often go for days without enough to eat and are unable to afford the medications they require. They live in poverty, even though millions of dollars are held by Israeli banks, companies and organizations – money that was intended to assist these survivors and which they cannot access. Two Israeli investigative journalists try to unravel the mountains of red tape that prevent the payment of these funds to the people for whom they were intended.

Guests: Directors Guy Meroz and Orli Vilnai-Federbush

THE POWDER AND THE GLORY

CANADIAN PREMIERE USA 2007, 90 min Directors: Ann Carol Grossman, Arnie Reisman Sun. May 11 → 3:30pm → BC



Meet Helena Rubinstein and Elizabeth Arden, the two women responsible for the cosmetics industry, as it exists today. Helena Rubinstein immigrated to the United States from Eastern Europe, by way of Australia, and starting with nothing, created the \$150 billion dollar health and beauty industry. Elizabeth Arden came to the United States from Canada and became involved in the same business. The two rivals never met, but lived parallel lives, turning cosmetics into respectable, necessary items, while becoming household names, cultural icons and examples of female corporate magnates in an age of male dominance.

Guest invited

Generously sponsored by: Helena Rubinstein Foundation

PRAYING WITH LIOR

USA 2007, 87 min Director: Ilana Trachtman Mon. May 5 → 6:00pm → SG



This tender documentary follows Lior on his journey towards his Bar Mitzvah. What makes this story different is that Lior has Down Syndrome and has spent his entire life praying with passion and fervour. Lior and his family are very close, more so because Lior lost his mother at the age of six. Everyone who has contact with Lior comes away with a different impression. Some feel he is an inspiration, while others find him a burden. The film itself questions the definition of "disability" and the meaning of prayer. Find out for yourself and come to your own conclusions.

QUEST FOR THE MISSING PIECE

ISRAEL 2007, 52 min Hebrew, German, Russian, with English subtitles Director: Oded Lotan Thu. May 8 → 2:30pm → AG



To circumcise or not to circumcise? That is the question. The hero of our story was born in "The Land of Our Fathers" but went to seek his fortune overseas. There he met another young man. This man did not have a piece missing and so our hero goes on a quest to find his identity and its meaning. The film uses chapter headings and beautiful artwork to find some kind of resolution to the hero's questions.

SHOWN WITH

A TRIP TO PRAGUE SHORT

USA 2006, 5 min Director: Neil Ira Needleman

Depressed by the sudden death of his parents, as they were returning home from a visit to Prague, a young man decides to visit the city where his parents had been. He meets an older couple on the plane and they decide to explore the city together. This film contains beautiful sketches and humorous narration.

Weekday matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SPONSOR

RABIN-PERES: EVERYTHING IS PERSONAL

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2007, 88 min Hebrew, with English subtitles Director: Arik Henig **Thu.** May 8 → 3:30pm → BC



Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres were the titans of Israeli politics. Both were resolute in attaining the top position in the political hierarchy and both belonged to the same political party. Their views and opinions were often quite similar, and both struggled to win the premiership of the country. Their feuds and political battles were legendary. Rabin was a sabra and embodied the values of the native born Israeli. Peres was a new immigrant, a "greenhorn," who never lost his foreign accent or image. Together they encapsulate the Israeli story for almost 60 years by leading their country through the many twists and turns of Israeli history since its founding in 1948. A perfect film for Israel @ 60.

Weekday matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SPONSOR **RALPH BENMERGUI: MY ISRAEL**

CANADA 2008, 60 min Director: Ralph Benmergui **Sun**, May 4 → 6:00pm → AG



Radio and television personality, Ralph Benmergui, takes viewers on a personal trip to Israel, in this compilation preview of his upcoming TV series. Benmergui raises some very serious questions about Israel as he travels throughout the country and talks to a wide variety of ordinary people. He explores Israel's social, religious and political problems, including the continuing discrimination against Jews of Moroccan origin and Sephardic background. Ralph Benmergui will be in attendance to talk with the audience.

The entire miniseries to be broadcast on Vision TV beginning May 5.

THE SECRETS (HA-SODOT)

ISRAEL 2007, 120 min Hebrew, with English subtitles Director: Avi Nesher Cast: Ania Bukstein, Michal Shtamler, Fanny Ardant, Dana Ivgy **Tue.** May 6 ▶ 8:45pm ▶ BC **Thu.** May 8 ▶ 8:30pm ▶ SG



A film filled with passion, love and faith, in which two brilliant young women discover their own voices within the Orthodox Jewish society. Their faith is tested when they enter a religious seminary for women in Sfad where they encounter the modern world and some of its temptations. The film is beautifully shot and wonderfully cast.

Warning: sexual content.

Generously sponsored by:



SHARON, LOIS AND BRAM: 25 YEARS OF SKINNAMARINK

CANADA 2003, 47 min Director: Shelagh O'Brien Sun. May 4 → 11:00am → BC → FREE



Join us as the Toronto Jewish Film Festival pays tribute to SHARON, LOIS & BRAM, with this free, ticketed programme. For thirty years they have entertained families with their music, and won the hearts of parents and children alike. Now, those children are bringing their own families to hear the magic! Sharon, Lois and Bram will perform live, followed by the marvelous TV special celebrating 25 years of entertaining children called "25 Years of Skinnamarink." After the screening, they will do a few more songs, followed by a questionand-answer period and an opportunity for autographs. Limit of four tickets per family. Please pick up tickets at the TJFF Box office after April 14.

Generously sponsored by: Sam and Gitta Ganz and Family

SHIELD OF SOLOMON

WORLD PREMIERE CANADA 2008, 52 min English, Hebrew, with English subtitles Directors: Igal Hecht, Lior Cohen **Tue.** May 6 → 2:30pm → AG **Thu.** May 8 → 3:30pm → SG



Thousands of men, women and children from Southern Sudan and the region of Darfur have been killed in what has been described as the first genocide of the 21st Century. Shield of Solomon tells the story of four refugees from Darfur who found sanctuary in the most unlikely place in the world – Israel. They walked from the southern Sudan and across the Sinai in order to get there. Since their arrival, they have been battling authorities to remain in Israel, where they have found safety and freedom.

Guests: Producer Talia Klein and Editor Ben Goloff

Weekday matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR

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SIXTY SIX

UK 2006, 93 min Director: Paul Weiland Cast: Helena Bonham Carter, Eddie Marsan, Gregg Sulkin Wed. May 7 → 6:00pm → BC Fri. May 9 → 1:00pm → SG



It's the summer of 1966 and Bernie's family is preparing to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah. The exact day is chosen, despite the fact that the final of the World Cup of soccer is scheduled to take place at the same time, as everybody expects England will be eliminated. However, England keeps winning and winds up playing for the championship. Guess where most of the guests are that day – in front of the telly. Poor Bernie! This film skillfully recreates the time period and features terrific performances by all, including Helena Bonham Carter as Bernie's mother. This is a beautiful comedy about family relationships.

SHOWN WITH

POP GOES THE WEASEL SHORT

ISRAEL 2007, 5 min Hebrew, with English subtitles Director: Alon Chitayat

A cute film about a family moving and leaving behind the children's music box which contained their drawings, photos and all the memories of childhood.

Generously sponsored by:



SKATE TO SURVIVE

WORLD PREMIERE CANADA 2008, 48 min English, Dutch, German, with English subtitles Director: Astra Burka **Tue.** May 6 ▶ 5:00pm ▶ AG



Ellen Burka was a typical young girl in prewar Amsterdam. After the Nazis occupied the city, she and her family were deported to Westerbork and Theresienstadt, where she met her future husband. After the war, she walked back to Holland to restart her life. After coming to Toronto, Ellen made a career of figure skating, but hid her wartime experiences and background from her two daughters until they were teenagers. She coached her daughter Petra to a World Figure Skating Championship and revolutionized the sport through the artistry of another student, Toller Cranston.

Guest: Director Astra Burka

SHOWN WITH

MUM SHORT CANADA 2008, 37 min Director: Julia Creet

A documentary about a Holocaust survivor whose children discover the fact that their mother was Jewish.

Guest: Director Julia Creet

The Jews in Sports series is made possible by the generous support of Stephen and Cookie Sandler.

A SLIM PEACE

CANADIAN PREMIERE UK 2007, 59 min English, Hebrew, Arabic, with English subtitles Director: Yael Luttwak **Mon.** May 5 > 3:30pm > BC



When a group of Israelis, Palestinians, Bedouin Arabs and American settlers are brought together with the shared goal of losing weight, they find they have far more in common than they ever would have imagined. The discussions they have go far beyond their diets, extend into the world of politics, and bring these women to understand each other in a way they never did before. This film gives a different perspective of the people who live side by side but never really get the chance to talk and interact with each other. It opens a whole new world.

Weekday matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR

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STALAGS: HOLOCAUST AND PORNOGRAPHY IN ISRAEL

ISRAEL 2007, 62 min Hebrew, with English subtitles Director: Ari Libsker Wed. May 7 → 10:00pm → AG



Stalags were pocketbooks written in the 1960s telling stories about lusty female SS officers sexually abusing camp prisoners. They were usually read by men who bought them for their sexy covers and for their strong sexual content. The fad lasted only a few years and the popularity of the books declined after a trial of some of the authors who were accused of distributing anti-Semitic pornography. This film introduces the creators of this genre for the first time and questions the connection between pornography and the Holocaust, which continues in the representation of the Holocaust in Israel today. It is a fascinating account of a little-known subject.

Warning: some graphic content.

SHOWN WITH

GIA SHORT

Israel 2008, 24 min Hebrew, Russian, with English subtitles Director: Oded Zur

Gia is a Russian immigrant in Israel who has become a stripper in order to support herself and her mother.

STEAL A PENCIL FOR ME

CANADIAN PREMIERE USA 2007, 94 min Dutch, Hebrew, with English subtitles Director: Michele Ohayon Mon. May 5 > Noon > AG Tue. May 6 > 1:00pm > SG



Jack Polak and his wife were inmates in a concentration camp. In the same barracks, however, was a young woman Jack had met and fallen in love with a short time before being deported. As Jack himself says, "I was in the camps with my wife and my girlfriend; and believe me, it wasn't easy." But survive he did, and so did his wife and girlfriend. This is a beautifully shot documentary about the power of love and the ability of people to overcome all obstacles and still survive.

Weekday matinees presented by:

TORONTO STAR

STEALING KLIMT

CANADIAN PREMIERE UK 2007, 88 min English, German, with English subtitles Director: Jane Chablani Wed. May 7 > 3:30pm > BC



A fascinating account of the struggle by Maria Altmann to recover five paintings by Gustav Klimt owned by her family in Vienna and stolen by the Nazis. She decided to take on the Austrian and the American governments in order to reclaim the masterpieces. The history of the five paintings from their creation, until the 2006 resolution, is a remarkable tale of the battle to return them to their rightful owners.

SHOWN WITH

WILLY WEINER – EXODUS SHORT

ARMENIA 2007, 26 min Armenian, Russian, with English subtitles Directors: Nika Shek, Karina Verdiyan

The story of a Jewish composer living in Armenia who writes some of the most beautiful Jewish classical music you've ever heard.

Weekday matinees presented by: TORONTO STAR official newspaper sponsor

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TEHILIM

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL/FRANCE 2007, 96 min Hebrew, with English subtitles Director: Raphael Nadjari Cast: Michael Moshonov, Limor Goldstein, Yonathan Alster Mon. May 5 → 1:00pm → BC Wed. May 7 → 6:00pm → SG



In today's Jerusalem, a Jewish family leads an ordinary life until the father mysteriously disappears following a car accident. The family is forced to deal with his absence and the difficulties of everyday life as best they can. The adults take refuge in silence or prayer, while the two children try to find their father in their own way.

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TO BE OR NOT TO BE 😕

USA 1942, 99 min Writer/ Director: Ernst Lubitsch Cast: Jack Benny, Carole Lombard, Robert Stack, Sig Ruman, Felix Bressart Fri. May 9 → 5:00pm → AG



Ernst Lubitsch's "To Be or Not to Be" is a comedy classic. A theatre troupe, led by a vain actor and his beautiful wife (Jack Benny and Carole Lombard), get mixed up in intrigue and espionage in Nazi-occupied Poland, and end up putting on the performance of their lives. Lubitsch's lampooning of Hitler was very daring, at a time when the outcome of the war was uncertain. In 1983 the film was re-made by Mel Brooks. (Note: see also Ernst Lubitsch in Berlin, Mon. May 5 > 2:00pm > AG)

Guest: Andrea Most, Associate Professor, Dept. of English, University of Toronto

SHOWN WITH

YOU NAZTY SPY! SHORT

USA 1940, 18 min Director: Jules White Cast: Curly Howard, Larry Fine, Moe Howard

The Three Stooges were the very first to spoof Hitler. In this groundbreaking satire, they are paperhangers who take control of the country of Moronica.

The Comedy on Wry: The Mavericks series is made possible by the generous support of Shirley Granovsky.

TO SEE IF I'M SMILING

ISRAEL 2007, 60 min Hebrew, with English subtitles Director: Tamar Yarom Wed. May 7 → 8:30pm → BC



Four female Israeli soldiers serving in the West Bank tell stories of the psychological stress they endure and the after-effects that continue to haunt them. Some of the things they witness and do, change their lives forever. Because they feel the need to be "one of the guys" they become somewhat dehumanized. The stories are both brutal and heart-wrenching. You will never forget these women!

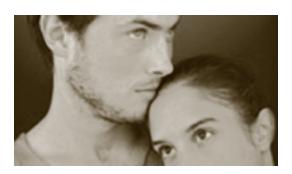
Viewers should be warned of some unsettling images.

Guests: Moderator David Schatzky, Psychotherapist, and Dana Behar, Education Officer

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A TOUCH AWAY

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2007, 8 x 38 min Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian, with English subtitles Director: Ron Ninio Cast: Gaya Traub, Evgenia Dodina, Yarden Bar-Kochba, Slava Bibergal, Henry David, Jenya Dodina, Lucy Dubinchik, Tzahi Grad Part 1 → Mon. May 5 → 7:00pm → AG → Sun. May 11 → 3:30pm → SG Part 2 → Thu. May 8 → 7:00pm → AG → Sun. May 11 → 6:00pm → SG



A popular Israeli TV miniseries that follows a recent Russian immigrant who is attempting to get settled in Tel Aviv and pave the way for his family to join him. Unknowingly, he rents an apartment in an Orthodox section of town and falls in love with the daughter of his religious neighbour. Add a few more storylines and you have a marvellous multi-family drama that will keep you glued to the screen for the entire 5-hour running time. Presented in two parts, get set for the exciting ride of a terrific drama, complete with major popcorn consumption!

Generously sponsored by:



UN SECRET

FRANCE 2007, 100 min French, with English subtitles Director: Claude Miller Cast: Cecile De France, Patrick Bruel, Ludivine Sagnier, Julie Depardieu, Mathieu Amairic, Nathalie Boutefeu, Yves Verhoeven Sat. May 10 ▶ 9:15 ▶ BC



For many years, the French have been trying to deal with their failure to protect their Jewish population during the Petain regime. The guilt of one man and the rejection felt by one woman are used to reflect the guilt of the entire nation for the rejection and abandonment of their Jewish countrymen during World War II. A cinematically lush and moving film that will involve you emotionally until the very end.

Generously sponsored by:



VA, VIS ET DEVIENS (LIVE AND BECOME)

FRANCE/BELGIUM/ISRAEL/ITALY 2005, 140 min French, Hebrew, Amharic, with English subtitles Cast: Yael Abecassis, Roschdy Zem, Moshe Agazai, Moshe Abebe, Sirak M. Sabahat, Roni Hadar Director: Radu Mihaileanu Sun. May 4 → 8:30pm → SG



A heartwarming story of a young Ethiopian boy whose mother realizes he can only survive if he poses as one of the Ethiopian Jews being secretly airlifted to Israel from a refugee camp in the Sudan. The film follows this young boy's life, growing up in a new and strange society, while yearning to see his mother again.

WILL EISNER: PORTRAIT OF A SEQUENTIAL ARTIST 😅

USA 2007, 96 min Director: Andrew D. Cooke Thu. May 8 → 10:00pm → BC



Named "the most influential comic book artist of all time" by Wizard Magazine, Will Eisner transformed the "funny papers" or comics by creating a whole new form of art – the graphic novel. Part of an extraordinary group of Jewish cartoonists, including Joe Shuster and Jerome Siegel (Superman), the Fleischer Brothers (Betty Boop), Stan Lee (Spider Man), Bob Kane (Batman) and countless others, Eisner was the most highly celebrated. The Spirit, an urban crime fighter series, based in part on Eisner's upbringing in the tenements of New York, was a realistic portrayal of life on the streets, filled with subtle humour. Eisner's life, work and times are wonderfully depicted in this documentary that includes interviews with Michael Chabon, Jules Feiffer, Neil Gaiman, Art Spiegelman, Frank Miller, Kurt Vonnegut Jr. and others.

Guest: Director, Andrew D. Cooke

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THE WORLD WAS OURS

CANADIAN PREMIERE USA 2007, 58 min Director: Mira Jedwabnik Van Doren Wed. May 7 → 5:00pm → AG



Jewish Vilna was called "The Jerusalem of Lithuania." It was a major centre of Eastern European Jewish culture, especially Yiddish culture. The Jews of Vilna prided themselves on their deep religious heritage and highly developed sense of social responsibility. The film focuses on the pre-World War II life of this vibrant community that produced so many illustrious artists, musicians and intellectuals. Mandy Patinkin's narration brings all the elements of this film together into a beautiful tribute dedicated to a people and a culture, gone forever at the hands of the Nazis.

Guest invited

SHOWN WITH

STONES OF SHARASHOVA SHORT

CANADA 2008, 20 min Director: Celia Denov

In the year 2000 several North Americans visit their home shtetl in Poland and find that the Jewish cemetery has deteriorated. They return in 2005 and decide to put a fence around the cemetery and then two years later come back again to restore the cemetery.

Guest: Director Celia Denov

WRISTCUTTERS: A LOVE STORY 😕

USA 2006, 91 min Director: Goran Dukic Writers: Etgar Keret, Goran Dukic Cast: Patrick Fugit, Shea Whigham, Tom Waits, Shannyn Sossamon, Will Arnett Sat. May 10 → 11:30pm → BC



A cult hit at Sundance, Wristcutters is an offbeat road movie set in an afterlife way station, reserved for people who committed suicide. Based on a short story by Israeli writer/director Etgar Keret (Jellyfish), Wristcutters features Patrick Fugit (Almost Famous) as a young man who slits his wrists after a break-up with his girlfriend. Hooking up with a Russian and a woman hitchhiker, the trio hit the road and meet a number of memorable characters, including an undercover angel played by Tom Waits. *"… everything a comedy should be. 5 out of 5…a huge audience favorite, and no wonder."* – Ain't It Cool News.

SHOWN WITH

NIGHT OF THE LIVING JEWS SHORT USA 2008, 21 min Director: Oliver Noble

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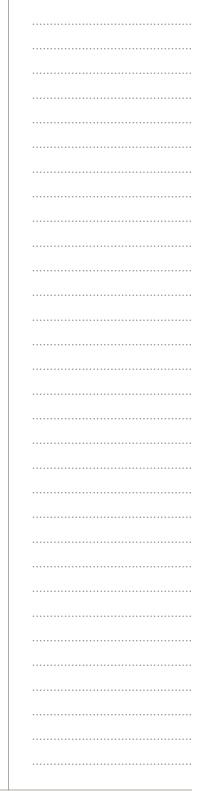
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MAY 2008	3 SATURDAY	4 SUNDAY	5 MONDAY	6 TUESDAY
11:00		BC · SHARON LOIS & BRAM AG · AT HOME IN UTOPIA		
12:00			AG · STEAL A PENCIL FOR ME	AG · BETWEEN TWO NOTES
1:00		BC · ANNE AND THE REVEREND AG · MAX MINSKY AND ME SG · GLOOMY SUNDAY	BC · TEHILIM SG · HEBREW LESSON	BC · A NEW LEAF SG · STEAL A PENCIL FOR ME
2:00			AG · ERNST LUBITSCH IN BERLIN	
2:30				AG · SHIELD OF SOLOMON
3:30		BC · ORTHODOX STANCE AG · NICHOLS & MAY SG · MY MEXICAN SHIVA	$\begin{array}{l} \boldsymbol{BC} & \cdot \boldsymbol{A} \text{ SLIM PEACE} \\ \boldsymbol{SG} & \cdot \boldsymbol{AT} \text{ HOME IN UTOPIA} \end{array}$	BC · OPERATION MURAL SG · ORTHODOX STANCE
5:00			AG · IT'S NOT IN HEAVEN	AG · SKATE TO SURVIVE
6:00		BC · PAYING FOR JUSTICE AG · MY ISRAEL SG · AVIVA MY LOVE	BC 6:15 · MR. WARMTH: THE DON RICKLES PROJECT SG · PRAYING WITH LIOR	BC · ARTHUR SZYK – Illuminator SG · Max Minsky and Me
7:00			AG · A TOUCH AWAY - PART 1	
7:30				AG - MY OPPOSITION
8:30		BC · BEAUFORT AG · JACKIE MASON: THE ULTIMATE JEW SG · VA VIS ET DEVIENS	BC · BAD FAITH SG · NOODLE	SG · NO EXIT BC 8:45 · THE SECRETS
9:15	BC 9:30 · NOODLE			
10:00				AG · MORT SAHL: THE LOYAL OPPOSITION
10:30			AG · JERUSALEM IS PROUD TO PRESENT	

8 THURSDAY	9 FRIDAY	10 SATURDAY	11 SUNDAY
			BC - THE LIGHT AHEAD AG - CHAMPAGNE SPY
AG - HOUSE ON AUGUST STREET	AG · THE GOLDBERGS		
BC · MAKING TROUBLE SG · ARTHUR SZYK – ILLUMINATOR	BC · ARRANGED SG · SIXTY SIX		BC · HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN SG · DANS LA VIE
			AG · FIRST BASKET
AG · QUEST FOR THE MISSING PIECE	AG · DANNY KAYE		
BC · RABIN - PERES SG · SHIELD OF SOLOMON AG 4:30 · MATZO & MISTLETOE	BC · DANS LA VIE SG · MY FATHER MY LORD		BC · POWDER AND THE GLORY SG · A TOUCH AWAY - PART 1
	AG · TO BE OR NOT TO BE		AG · CAESAR'S WRITERS
BC · MY FATHER MY LORD SG · MAHARAL			BC - BLESSED IS THE MATCH SG - A TOUCH AWAY - PART 2
AG · A TOUCH AWAY - PART 2			
BC 8:00 · JELLYFISH			
SG · THE SECRETS			BC • PETE SEEGER: THE POWER OF SONG
		BC · UN SECRET AG · LENNY	
BC · WILL EISNER			
AG · FROZEN DAYS		BC 11:30 · WRISTCUTTERS	
	THURSDAY AG HOUSE ON AUGUST STREET BC MAKING TROUBLE SG ARTHUR SZYK - ILLUMINATOR AG QUEST FOR THE MISSING PIECE BC RABIN - PERES SG SHIELD OF SOLOMON AG 4:30 · MATZO & MISTLETOE BC · WILL EISNER	THURSDAYFRIDAYAG: HOUSE ON AUGUST STREETAG: THE GOLDBERGSBG: MAKING TROUBLE SG: ARTHUR SZYK ILLUMINATORBC: ARRANGED SG: SIXTY SIXAG: QUEST FOR THE MISSING PIECEAG: DANNY KAYEAG: QUEST FOR THE MISSING PIECEBC: DANS LA VIE SG: MY FATHER MY LORD SG: MY FATHER MY LORDSG: RABIN - PERES SG: SHEL OF SOLOMON AG 4:30 · MATZ0 & MISTLETOEBC: DANS LA VIE SG: MY FATHER MY LORDSG: RABIN - PERES SG: MAHARALAG: TO BE OR NOT TO BECG: NY FATHER MY LORD SG: MAHARALAG: TO BE OR NOT TO BESG: SI AT DUCH AWAY - PART 2I.I.I.I.I.I.I.I.I.I.I.I.I.I.I.I.I.I.I.	THURSDAYFRIDAYSATURDAYHURSDAYImage: Saturdame and the second

- **23** 888 Go Kosher
- 11 Anne and the Reverend
- 11 Arab Labor
- 12 Arranged
- 12 Arthur Szyk Illuminator
- **13** At Home in Utopia
- 13 Aviva My Love
- 14 Bad Faith
- 30 Battle of Cable St.
- 14 Beaufort
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- 15 Blessed is the Match
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- 16 Champagne Spy, The
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- 27 Max Minsky and Me
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- 31 Munro

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- **39** Steal a Pencil For Me
- **40** Stealing Klimt
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- 40 Tehilim
- 41 To Be or Not To Be
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- 40 Willy Weiner Exodus
- 44 World Was Ours, The
- 44 Wristcutters: A Love Story
- 13 Yosl Cutler and His Puppets
- 21 Yoo Hoo Mrs Goldberg
- 41 You Nazty Spy!



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