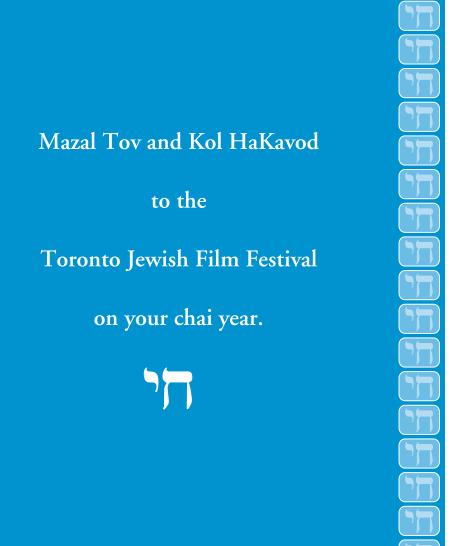


POMERFUL INTERNATIONAL

APRIL 17-25, 2010 TJFF.COM 416.967.1528







People of the Comic Book

FREE! Fr

Free Events

- AG Al Green Theatre
- **BC** Bloor Cinema
- RH SilverCity Richmond Hill Cinemas
- SC Cineplex Odeon Sheppard Centre Cinemas

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		APRIL 17, 2010	3:00 PM	AG	Dubak: A Palestinian Jew w/ Achziv, A Place for Love
9:15 PM	ВС	A Matter of Size	2 20 DM	ВС	<u> </u>
SUNDAY	Y AP	RIL 18, 2010	3:30 PM 4:30 PM	SC	What If? The Helene Mayer Story w/ Not Idly By Ida's Dance Club
11:00 AM	ВС	Off and Running	5:45 PM	AG	Heart of Stone
11:00 AM	AG	Paul Buhle Talk—"Jews and Comic Art" 💋 FREE!	5:45 PM	BC	Oh, What a Mess
1:00 PM	вс	Hidden Children	6:00 PM	RH	Coco
1:00 PM	SC	Cinema's Exiles: From Hitler to Hollywood		SC	
1:00 PM	RH	Brothers	6:15 PM 8:00 PM	BC	Mrs. Moskowitz & the Cats Bride Flight
1:15 PM	AG	Mensch	8:30 PM	AG	Will Eisner: Portrait of a Sequential Artist
3:15 PM	ВС	Where I Stand: The Hank Greenspun Story	8:30 PM	SC	Five Hours from Paris
3:20 PM	SC	Exodus: The True Story	8:30 PM	RH	Re-Birth Part 1
3:30 PM	RH	Inside Hana's Suitcase			
4:00 PM	AG	The Comic Art Forum 🚅 FREE!	ТПОКО	JAT	APRIL 22, 2010
5:30 PM	SC	Anita	NOON	AG	Claude Lanzmann
6:15 PM	AG	Honor			w/ Gitai in Search of His Carmel
6:15 PM	RH	Eli & Ben	1:00 PM	ВС	Anita
7:00 PM	ВС	Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today	2:30 PM	AG	Five Hours from Paris
8:00 PM	SC	A Matter of Size	3:15 PM	ВС	Ultimatum
8:30 PM	RH	Victoria Day	4:30 PM	SC	Oh, What a Mess
8:45 PM	AG	Gay Days	5:30 PM	ВС	The Loners
MONDA	Y AP	PRIL 19, 2010	5:30 PM	AG	Protector
NOON	AG	American Splendor 🚅	6:00 PM	RH	The Wolberg Family
1:00 PM	ВС	Nora's Will	6:30 PM	SC	Ahead of Time w/ The Irene Hilda Story
2:45 PM	AG	The Jazz Baroness	8:00 PM	ВС	The Klezmatics: On Holy Ground
3:15 PM	ВС	Coco	8:15 PM	AG	Lebanon
4:30 PM	SC	The Worst Company in the World	8:30 PM	RH	Re-Birth Part 2
5:30 PM	AG	Who Framed Roger Rabbit 🚄	9:15 PM	SC	Jaffa, the Orange's Clockwork
5:45 PM	BC	Seven Minutes in Heaven	FRIDAY	APR	IL 23, 2010
6:00 PM	RH	Noodle	NOON	AG	Sayed Kashua: Forever Sacred w/ Arab Labor
6:15 PM	SC	Honor	1:00 PM	ВС	Haredim—A Documentary Trilogy
8:00 PM	ВС	Eyes Wide Open	2:15 PM	AG	Israel Ltd.
8:15 PM	RH	Gloomy Sunday	4:00 PM	AG	The Line King: The Al Hirschfeld Story 🥌
8:30 PM	AG	The False Forest and Other Pictures-Stories	SATURI	YAC	APRIL 24, 2010
9:15 PM	SC	Re-Birth Part 1	7:00 PM	вс	Joann Sfar Draws from Memory 5 FREE!
		PRIL 20, 2010	9:15 PM	ВС	Berlin '36
			9:15 PM	AG	Simon Konianski
NOON	AG	Paint What You Remember	9:15 PM	SC	The Loners
1:00 PM	BC	The Wolberg Family	9:15 PM	RH	Bride Flight
2:00 PM	AG BC	Comic Book Confidential	MIDNIGHT	ВС	Fritz the Cat 🥩
3:15 PM		Mrs. Moskowitz & the Cats			RIL 25, 2010
4:30 PM	SC	Hidden Children			
5:30 PM	BC	The People v. Leo Frank About of Time w/ The Irone Hilds Story	11:00 AM		Bar Mitzvah
5:30 PM	AG	Ahead of Time w/ The Irene Hilda Story	11:00 AM	AG	Irreverent Imagination: The Golden Age of Looney Tunes
6:00 PM	RH	Nora's Will	1,00 014	SC	
6:45 PM	SC	Seven Minutes in Heaven	1:00 PM		Berlin '36
8:15 PM	BC	Jaffa, the Orange's Clockwork	1:00 PM	RH	Ultimatum The Prethere Warner
8:15 PM	AG	Last Son Ø	1:15 PM 1:30 PM	AG BC	The Brothers Warner
8:15 PM	RH	Eyes Wide Open			Amos Oz: The Nature of Dreams William Kunstler, Disturbing the Universe
9:00 PM	SC	Re-Birth Part 2	3:30 PM	BC	William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe
	SDAY	Y APRIL 21, 2010	3:30 PM	AG	Fragments w/ The Valderama Sisters
NOON	AG	As Lilith w/ Lone Samaritan	3:30 PM	SC	Simon Konianski
1:00 PM	ВС	Cinema's Exiles: From Hitler to Hollywood	3:30 PM	RH	Lebanon Fyadus, The True Story
40 410		PH O'L O'L B'-land 148'' O'	6:00 PM 6:15 PM	BC	Exodus: The True Story
AG Al Green Theatre RH SilverCity Richmond Hill Cinemas				AG	The Mad Playboy of Art 🗷
BC Bloor Cinema SC Cineplex Odeon Sheppard Centre Cinemas 8:45 PM BC Ajami					

IN-PERSON TICKET PURCHASES

Advance Box Offices*

April 1–17 TJFF Box Office

19 Madison Avenue, downstairs Monday to Friday 1:00-7:00 pm Saturday & Sunday Noon-5:00 pm

April 11-17

Cineplex Odeon Sheppard Centre Cinemas Box Office

4861 Yonge Street at Sheppard (Sheppard Subway Station) Monday to Friday 2:00–6:00 pm Saturday & Sunday 2:00–6:00 pm (Closed Good Friday & Easter Monday)

FESTIVAL BOX OFFICES (April 18-25)

Venue box office opens 1 hour before the first scheduled screening of the day and closes 30 minutes after the start of last screening of the day.

Bloor Cinema

506 Bloor Street West at Bathurst (Bathurst Subway Station)

Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Avenue at Bloor (Spadina Subway Station)

Cineplex Odeon Sheppard Centre Cinemas

4861 Yonge Street at Sheppard (Sheppard Subway Station) This box office will not be open on Friday April 23

SilverCity Richmond Hill Cinemas

8771 Yonge Street (Yonge & Hwy 7)
This box office will not be open on Friday April 23

ONLINE TICKET ORDERS

Visit our website, tjff.com, and follow the instructions. A \$4.50 service charge per order will apply.

PHONE ORDERS (April 1-25)

Phone 416.967.1528 to order tickets

Phone hours: Monday to Friday Noon–6:00 pm Saturday and Sunday Noon–5:00 pm A \$3.50 service charge per order will apply.

PASSES

The Really Flexible Pass: \$140

(20 Films/Events, Excluding Opening Night and Special Presentations). Any combination of tickets, subject to availability

The Weekday Special: \$60

(All films Monday through Friday before 5:00 pm) 1 ticket per screening, subject to availability

The Richmond Hill Pass: \$60

(All films at SilverCity Richmond Hill Cinemas) 1 ticket per screening, subject to availability Maximum 10 tickets per pass

Pass Information

With a pass you must still obtain a ticket for each screening. Tickets can be selected in person only, from any TJFF Box Office. Passes can be redeemed beginning April 1, 2010. Pass tickets cannot be selected online or over the phone. All passes and tickets are subject to availability.

SINGLE TICKETS

Opening Night at the Bloor: \$20

Due to the busy nature of opening night, the box office at the Bloor Cinema on April 17 will sell tickets for Opening Night only.

General Admission: \$12

Seniors/Students: \$7 (ID required)

Weekday Matinees: \$7 (Mon-Fri, screenings before 5:00 pm)

Special Presentations: \$20

Free Student Admission:

Subject to availability. Five minutes prior to each screening, students with ID will be admitted for free from a Rush Line.

Free Events:

All free events are ticketed and are subject to availability. Free programmes can be booked in advance, in person only, at any TJFF box office. Maximum 2 tickets per person.

Ticketing Policies:

All sales are final. No refunds. Seating is guaranteed until 15 minutes before the screening. Latecomers will be admitted only at the discretion of TJFF staff. There will be no admittance 15 minutes after the start of a programme. Students and seniors will be required to show ID. Programmes are subject to change. All films are presented in their original language with English subtitles. Please check our website, tjff.com, for film ratings.

^{*}A \$2.00 service charge will apply.



PHOTO: TIM LEYES

HELEN ZUKERMAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In Judaism, 18 is considered a lucky number—it means "life"! This Festival marks our 18th year as a celebration and exploration of the Jewish experience. For 18 years, we have been celebrating Life. From Israel to Iceland, and countries in between, we travel the Jewish world through film, and gain insight into all the ways our culture and religion is celebrated.

When the Toronto Jewish Film Festival began in 1993, there were few Jewish-content films that played in traditional movie houses, though they sometimes made it into art houses. Films like *Sophie's Choice* were rarities. *Schindler's List* was the breakthrough film, thanks to Steven Spielberg—people who would never have gone to see a Holocaust film went because it was Spielberg. Bless him for educating so many hundreds of thousands.

Jewish-content films from around the world, as well, are making it into mainstream venues. In particular, it has been exciting for me to watch the evolution of Israeli film from mediocrity to excellence, receiving the exposure it deserves. This is both a thrill and a challenge for those of us running festivals. Because of the marketplace, more Jewish-content films are being made—and that can only be a good thing!

From the day we opened in May 1993, you have embraced us with your presence. We shared your laughter, tears and sometimes criticisms about the choices we made. We listen to and consider all of your comments.

We endeavour to be an honest Festival by including work that might make us uncomfortable—often films

dealing with the Middle East. It is important to us that these films, made by Israelis, have a forum to showcase issues that concern Israelis. The stories should be heard, not necessarily agreed with.

With the expansion of the Festival into four venues this year, and with the special sidebar series curated and developed by Ellie Skrow, we have fulfilled our goal of being not a "film festival for the Jews," but a Jewish Film Festival. Our special series (Rhythm and Jews, Comedy, People of the Comic Book) go beyond religion and Jewish culture, reaching into the diverse community that is Toronto in 2010.

Eighteen years feels like yesterday and forever—weird and wonderful! It is an important milestone for remembering the Festival's original founders: Linda Bronfman, myself and the late Debra Plotkin. We licked stamps, watched films, worried that "nobody would show up" and thought we would have to close the balconies at the Bloor Cinema because it was too big for us!

Our first opening night, we had booked only the lateshow slot at 9 pm. When the cinema's 7 pm show ran late, we had a dilemma. What to do?

Aha! Food, conversation and song! We hatched a plan to have music (Ezra, a street klezmer), a film student interviewing people in line and, of course, cookies. The cookies became part of our Festival, only to be complemented by "herring-night Wednesdays."

There were other challenges, too. We had reserved the first two rows in the balcony for our "patrons," but discovered, to our horror, that the stuffing was coming out of the seats. Carol Lavine (one of our founding board members) and I raced over to Honest Ed's and bought a package of washcloths, pinning them over the seats, hoping our patrons wouldn't notice. And hoping none of the safety pins flung open!

Some of you have been with us for a year, a decade or longer, while others are new to the Festival and making your own memories.

I wish you a happy Festival. Know that you are the most important part of it! You make it what it is.

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival is "a window to and a mirror of the diversity of the Jewish experience across the world." Come, open the window and look in the mirror!



AVIVA ZUKERMAN SCHURE

CHAIR

Chai there. (Okay, I promise, that is the *last* chai joke in this note. I just couldn't resist!)

As someone who has been fortunate to have been around the Festival since its inaugural year, 1993, I find it almost surreal to be here at year 18. My first volunteer jobs for the Festival were doing pickups of guests at the airport and pinning dishcloths over the rips in theatre seats.

Our opening-night film that first year was *Black to the Promised Land*, a documentary about a group of African-American children from New York spending the summer on a kibbutz, and how two cultures learned from each other. It was a great film, but even better was the opportunity to meet the filmmaker, Madeline Ali, and one of the youth participants, Pearl, and hear more about the film and the project. The memory stays with me 18 years later, as do all the films and people I have seen over the years. Films that

I would have never seen, issues I would never have thought about and people I would have missed out on hearing if it had not been for the Toronto Jewish Film Festival and the remarkable work it does year after year to bring Toronto the best in film that highlights the Jewish experience from all over the world.

The Board had two specific focuses this year: looking back and reaching forward.

We formally honoured some of the special people and organizations who have been an integral part of our success over the last 18 years. These included long-time donors, festival volunteers, TJFF staff and other special people who have made this journey toward 18 easier and a lot more fun.

We continued our commitment to reaching out to new audiences with our Cinephile programme, which was launched in 2008, hosting events during the year—including a "spin and screen" at Spynga and a screening of the film *Anvil* at the Varsity VIP, complete with Caplansky's smoked meat. We will continue this programme in the fall with monthly events.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank the board for their hard work and continued enthusiasm for the Festival.

In this past year of financial uncertainty, we are deeply grateful to all of you who have kept the Festival as one of your priorities. Whether you contributed \$18 or \$1,800, we are deeply appreciative of all our donors.

Let us celebrate 18 years of the TJFF. Mazel tov!

THE DAVID A. STEIN MEMORIAL AWARD

The David A. Stein Memorial Award is presented in memory of David A. Stein, a gifted Toronto filmmaker who passed away in 2004 at age 34. The "Tzimmie"—named after his production company, Tzimmes Entertainment— is an annual \$5,000 award to the director of the best documentary making its Canadian premiere at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, and supports documentary filmmakers in creating works that would have interested David and that carry on his passion for storytelling.

Largely self-taught, David began his film career in 1993, first as a production manager and later as writer, director and editor of short films, as well as corporate identity and music videos. He made his first documentary—*Towards a Just Society*, a study of race relations in Canada—in 1998 for the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews. David also worked on television's *Betrayal* series, where he strived to give meaning to the stories of Mordechai Vanunu and Jonathan Pollard.

David worked closely with the TJFF, producing comedic trailers that also reflected his understanding of the human condition. In many ways the TJFF was a second home for him with his love of film and Yiddishkeit.

In this year of Chai, the Stein Family and TJFF are committed to further expanding the David A. Stein Memorial Award into a series of awards. This will allow us to recognize more films in different genres, and their creators. Examples may be an award for the best Canadian film at the festival, or best film by a first-time director—the possibilities are many.

Going forward, the David A. Stein Memorial Award, the first major award offered by the Festival, will become the umbrella under which others are recognized. This will permit individuals and families to remember someone special to them or to mark a major life-cycle event. As well, corporations and other friends of the Festival may have their names front and centre, as part of the TJFF.

The importance of supporting new Jewish-content films cannot be overemphasized. Just as David struggled to gain recognition and raise funds to make his films, we can remember and honour him by easing the path for others. Often some recognition and a modest amount of money can provide the resources to allow filmmakers to

go forward with their work. People often came to David for advice, so this award will continue his legacy of helping others. The Festival is happy to be part of this innovation as we move beyond Chai and into the future.

Mel and Renee Stein and family thank Helen Zukerman and the TJFF for helping make the David A. Stein Memorial Award possible and meaningful.



THIS YEAR'S JURY FOR THE DAVID A. STEIN MEMORIAL AWARD

Joel Greenberg, the co-founder of Studio 180, is a Chalmers and Dora award-winning playwright and director who has directed and/or choreographed more than 100 professional productions across Canada.

Daniel Iron has been a legal counsel at Telefilm Canada; a partner at Rhombus Media, where he produced features and TV series; and the founder of his own production company, Foundry Films Inc., responsible for many acclaimed TV series and feature films.

Helga Stephenson, of the Public Relations firm
Daniels/Stephenson, is best known for her work as
Executive Director of the Toronto International Film
Festival. She is a co-founder of Human Rights Watch
Canada Committee and Chair of the Human Rights Watch
Film Festival and the Reykjavik International Film Festival.

PAST WINNERS

2009: My First War 2008: Stealing Klimt

FILMMATTERS

Now in its third year, FilmMatters offers students from participating schools the opportunity to attend free screenings of films that explore cultural and religious diversity. Through the generous support of the Trillium Foundation and Cineplex Entertainment, we are able to offer our programme not just during the Festival, but also throughout the year.

In 2010, FilmMatters is pleased to present films that are relevant to courses across the curriculum. Teachers of history will be familiar with the case of Leo Frank, a white Jewish man who was lynched after being wrongfully convicted for the rape and murder of a young girl who worked in his factory. *The People v. Leo Frank* offers a thought-provoking look at racial and religious prejudice in the early part of the 20th century.

Heart of Stone explores the tension between Blacks and Jews in contemporary society. Before the race riots of the 1960s, Weequahic High School in Newark, N.J., was one of the top schools in the U.S., comprised mostly of middle-class Jewish students. By the time Ron Stone became principal in 2001, it was one of the most violent schools. To restore WHS to its former glory, Stone worked with gang members to create a non-violence zone and enlisted alumni, mostly older, white Jewish males and young African-Americans, to raise scholarship funds and encourage the pursuit of education. The combined efforts of Stone and the alumni group gave these students something they had not had for generations: a future.

FilmMatters is also thrilled to offer students the chance to meet Dr. Rick Hodes, whose efforts in securing life-saving surgeries for children in Ethiopia have earned him the honour of being named one of CNN's Heroes in 2007. Dr. Hodes will be here for a screening of *Making the Crooked Straight*, a documentary about him that played to a full house at last year's Festival.

Finally, the documentary *Off and Running* offers new insight into the issue of interracial adoption. Avery is an African-American teenager who lives with her adoptive white, Jewish, lesbian parents. Avery's decision to contact her birth mother sparks a complicated exploration of race and identity, highlighting the complexities of interracial adoption.

ALL SCREENINGS WILL BE HELD AT 10 AM AT THE BLOOR CINEMA. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK TICKETS, CONTACT SUSAN STARKMAN AT FILMMATTERS@TJFF.CA OR CALL 416.324.9121.





FREE TICKETED EVENTS FREE!



Paul Buhle Talk—"Jews and Comic Art"
FREE TALK
SUNDAY APRIL 18 • 11 AM • AL GREEN THEATRE



Comic Art Forum
FREE PANEL
WITH HARVEY PEKAR, BEN KATCHOR
AND PAUL BUHLE
SUNDAY APRIL 18 • 4 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE



Joann Sfar Draws from Memory WORK-IN-PROGRESS FRANCE/USA 2010, 60 MIN DIRECTOR: SAM BALL SATURDAY APRIL 24 • 7 PM • BLOOR CINEMA

CINEPHILE EVENTS

The TJFF Cinephile programme provides an entrée into all that the Toronto Jewish Film Festival has to offer year-round, in a casual and friendly environment. It is an outreach initiative designed to appeal to those with an active, social lifestyle. Cinephile hosts events matching great films and guest speakers with great food as a "taste of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival" and an introduction to the Festival itself.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TJFF CINEPHILE PROGRAMME, PLEASE EMAIL CINEPHILE@TJFF.CA.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY



ART EXHIBIT "JEWS AND AMERICAN COMICS: THE NEW GENERATIONS"

A special art exhibit, curated by Brown University students formerly enrolled in Paul Buhle's course "Jewish Americans: Film and Comics," will be on display at the Miles Nadal JCC throughout the Festival. The exhibit accompanies TJFF's sidebar series, PEOPLE OF THE COMIC BOOK: The Creators of Superheroes, Graphic Novels & Toons.



PHOTO: TIM LEYES

ELLIE SKROW

CURATOR, SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

PEOPLE OF THE COMIC BOOK: The Creators of Superheroes, Graphic Novels & Toons

"Only a Jew would think of calling himself Clark Kent."

—Jules Feiffer, cartoonist

"Along with jazz, the comic book is one of America's few indigenous art forms, but unlike jazz it's a specifically Jewish contribution to American culture. ... Comic books are to art what Yiddish is to language ... a vital and expressive language that talks with its hands."

—Art Spiegelman, artist and writer

Jews basically invented the comic book. They have played a predominant role throughout its history as well, starting from the Golden Age of Comics (roughly 1938–50), when the superhero first appeared on the 1938 cover of Action Comics No. 1 in the guise of Superman, created by a couple of Jewish kids—Toronto-born Joe Shuster and Cleveland native Jerry Siegel.

Jewish artists also invented and developed the graphic novel, and played a formative role in the creation of early animation, or "toons."

With the exception of several recent museum exhibitions in the U.S. and Europe, comic art (the umbrella term that encompasses the genres outlined above) has largely been an unrecognized art form.

People of the Comic Book celebrates the pioneers and creators of this unique form of popular culture, through a series of documentary films, features, shorts and special events that pay tribute to the remarkable contribution of Jewish artists.

The Jewish role in comic art has recently been the subject of several scholarly works, including *Jews and American Comics* and *The Art of Harvey Kurtzman*:

The Mad Genius of Comics, edited and co-edited respectively by author/lecturer Paul Buhle. Paul was an outstanding guest speaker at TJFF's Schreibers in Hollywood screenwriters series in 2007. We are delighted to welcome him back to launch the comic art sidebar series on Sunday, April 18, with a fascinating talk, illustrated by clips. (Also noteworthy: Who Framed Roger Rabbit, preceded by Paul's illuminating introduction—it will make you see the work in a whole new light.) Special series guests also include Harvey Pekar (American Splendor) and Ben Katchor (Pleasures of Urban Decay), who will read from his wry, poetic short stories, The False Forest and Other Picture-Stories, illustrated with projected images of his evocative graphic art. Additional highlights of the series include The Comic Art Forum (with guests Pekar, Katchor and Buhle) and two exciting works-in-progress: The Mad Playboy of Art, a portrait of Mad Magazine artist Will Elder, by Gary VandenBergh, and Joann Sfar Draws from Memory, a profile of the French graphic artist/director Joann Sfar, by Sam Ball.

Comic books were first created in 1933 by Maxwell Gaines (born Max Ginzberg) as a way of capitalizing on the "funnies," the immensely popular daily newspaper comic strips. Publishers originally collected and put them between covers, and then recruited new stories. Comic-book art—like songwriting, comedy and Hollywood moviemaking, also predominantly Jewish—was once considered to be "low-class." Marginalized as immigrants or children of immigrants, Jews gravitated to these industries or created new ones of their own. They were advised to change their names if they wanted to succeed during those overtly anti-Semitic times, and superheroes didn't dare appear to be Jewish. But they all had an alter ego ... a secret identity. The story of the Jewish creation of comic books is beautifully told in Michael Chabon's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay.

According to Jules Feiffer, the Superman story is "the ultimate assimilationist fantasy, to chronicle the smart Jewish boy's American dream. ... [I]t wasn't Krypton that Superman really came from; it was the planet Minsk." Superman's real name, after all, Kal-El, is remarkably similar to the Hebrew words meaning "the voice of God," and the Golem, from Jewish folklore, is often cited as the original superhero—created out of clay to fight evil in the world.

Another comic-book superhero—*Batman*—appeared on the heels of *Superman* in 1939, and was also created by two Jewish boys—artist **Bob Kane** (born Robert Kahn) and writer **Bill Finger**. EC's crime and horror comics of the '50s

(William M. Gaines, publisher) and Mad Magazine (Harvey Kurtzman, Will Elder and others), with its groundbreaking satire, followed. Marvel Comics, spearheaded by Stan Lee (born Stanley Lieber) and featuring the work of artist Jack Kirby (born Jacob Kurtzberg), among others, introduced a new archetypal superhero in the '60s—Spiderman, the Hulk, Iron Man, X-Men, Wolverine, Fantastic Four and many others.

The graphic novel (or sequential art) as a distinct art form emanated from the extraordinary talents of Will Eisner, whose 1940 comic strip The Spirit captured life growing up in the Jewish tenements of the Bronx, and whose graphic novel A Contract with God in 1978 featured a pious Jew who renounces his faith following the death of his young daughter.

Other noteworthy Jewish names in comic art—among a very, very long list-include Ralph Bakshi (Robert Crumb, though gentile, is "Jewish by way of ambience," according to author Paul Buhle, "with Jews not only as his frequent subjects, but his friends, wives and children"), Rube Goldberg, Jules Feiffer, William Steig (Shrek), Daniel Clowes (Ghost World), Al Capp (Li'l Abner) and, of course, Art Spiegelman. Spiegelman's Pulitzer Prize-winning Maus (1980) and Maus 2 (1992) are remarkable memoirs about Spiegelman's father's experiences during the Holocaust, and the troubled relationship between father and son. Jewish women have also played a key role in comic art, among them: Aline Kaminsky-Crumb, Sharon Rudahl, Trina Robbins, Miriam Katin and a whole new generation of young, female artists.

In the field of animation, perhaps the seminal role of Jewish artists is not as obvious. People readily think of Chuck Jones and Tex Avery (not Jewish), but Jewish creators' contribution to early toons is profound. Most notably, the Fleischer Brothers' cartoons (e.g., Ko-Ko the Clown, Popeye, Betty Boop) conveyed humour and wit, remarkably innovative technique and a unique urbane Jewish sensibility. Disney Studios was not overpopulated by Jews (whether Walt was anti-Semitic or not is still debated; he was most certainly anti-union)—when the anti-union bust came, former Jewish Disney animator Isadore "Friz" Freleng left for rival Warner Brothers, as senior director under producer Leon Schlesinger. They created an atmosphere of complete freedom for artists, in which the zany Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies were born. Also at Warners' animation studio, composer Carl W. Stalling and Mel Blanc, whose "1,000" voices, including Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Sylvester the Cat, Tweety Bird and Wile E. Coyote, left an indelible mark. (Blanc's headstone carries a Jewish star and the inscription "That's All Folks!").

A recent article in *The Forward*, by David Kaufmann, puts forth a really convincing case that the wisecracking Bugs Bunny himself—without a doubt a New Yorker is definitely Jewish.

In 2010, Eisner's legacy lives on, with such esteemed Jewish writers as Neil Gaiman and, in Israel, Etgar Keret, also renowned for their graphic novels.

Comic-book movies are now Big Business. Disney's recent acquisition of Marvel Comics for \$4.24 billion attests to the fact that this phenomenon will likely continue. The current crop of comic-book flicks have been revamped with ever more spectacular digital technology and special effects. The same holds true for animated features—another huge box-office draw. It's interesting to ponder whether anything's been lost along the way.

People of the Comic Book takes us back to the very beginning, when comic art began. As we witnessed in previous TJFF sidebars, it isn't just the fact that Jews dominated this particular form of popular culture that is the cause for celebration; it's the fact that they were fantastically good at what they created.

The Jewish artists and writers who invented and developed comic art were visionaries and innovators immensely talented, terrific storytellers, witty and wry in their perceptions—and masters of their craft.

KA-POW! SOCK! BAM! We hope you enjoy the series.

PEOPLE OF THE COMIC BOOK <



- American Splendor
- The Comic Art Forum
- **Comic Book Confidential**
- The False Forest and Other Picture-Stories-Ben Katchor
- Fritz the Cat
- Irreverent Imagination: The Golden Age of Looney Tunes
- Joann Sfar Draws from Memory
- Last Son
- The Line King: The Al Hirschfeld Story
- The Mad Playboy of Art
- Paul Buhle Talk—"Jews and Comic Art"
- Who Framed Roger Rabbit
- Will Eisner: Portrait of a Sequential Artist

TITLES IN THE SIDEBAR HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE ALPHABETICAL INDEX WITH THE ICON 🚅 OR CHECK WWW.TJFF.COM FOR SERIES OUTLINE.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY

18TH ANNUAL TORONTO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



PHOTO: TIM LEYES

LARRY ANKLEWICZ

PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

Welcome to the Toronto Jewish Film Festival's $18^{\rm th}$ anniversary. We are celebrating this milestone with a new collection of outstanding films from around the world.

This year we have terrific films from 18 countries. Our programming team chose the best of the best from over 400 films that were submitted to us.

We found some outstanding works to present at this year's Festival, including such Israeli gems as *The Loners*, about two Israeli soldiers of Soviet background who bring an entire army base to a standstill; *Lebanon*, an intense film about waging war from inside a tank; and the Oscar®-nominated *Ajami*. Other nuggets include the Dutch epic *Bride Flight*; *Re-birth*, the French TV miniseries about the birth of Israel; and the brilliant German feature about a German-Jewish athlete just prior to the 1936 Olympics, *Berlin '36*. We are also presenting such excellent Israeli films as *Five Hours from Paris* and the popular comedy *A Matter of Size*.

We are proud to have a number of North American premieres this year, including a very special film that has just been restored, *Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today* (1948) [The 2009 Schulberg/Waletzky Restoration], *Exodus: The True Story* and *The Irene Hilda Story*.

Two themes have emerged from our selections this year. One is based on Black/Jewish relations and consists of three films—*Off and Running*, the story of two Jewish women who have adopted Black and mixed-race children, and how their daughter overcomes some of the self-doubts and confusion of her upbringing; *Heart of Stone* tells about a high school that at one time had a mainly Jewish student body and now has primarily Black and minority students, and how the principal, along with the alumni, are trying to help the school reclaim some of its old academic glory; and *The People v. Leo Frank*, which relates the case of

Leo Frank, who was accused of killing a young female worker at the factory he managed in Atlanta, Georgia, in the early part of the 20^{th} century.

Another theme spotlights some truly remarkable personalities. The films include *Ahead of Time*, about the incredible Ruth Gruber, a Jewish writer, journalist and photographer who, during the 1930s, covered stories in the Soviet Arctic and Alaska, and in the '40s helped bring some 1,000 Jewish refugees from Europe to the U.S. She was also on the scene when the battered refugee ship *Exodus* limped into Haifa harbour and the passengers were taken back to internment camps in Germany. Gruber interviewed the passengers, and her reports captured the world's attention.

Other films about remarkable personalities include Where I Stand: The Hank Greenspun Story, about the man who ran weapons for the Jewish underground in Palestine during the late 1940s, helped turn Las Vegas into the gambling capital of the United States and then took on Joe McCarthy and the Internal Revenue Service in the U.S.

Then we have *Achziv*, a *Place for Love*, about Eli Avivi, an Israeli who built a paradise for the hippie and drug generation in Israel; a film about Israel's leading author, *Amos Oz: The Nature of Dreams*; the story of film pioneers the Warner Brothers; Israeli filmmaker Amos Gitai; Jewish singer and entertainer Irene Hilda; Pannonica Rothschild, the Jewish "Jazz Baroness"; and many more.

One of the most exciting films is *The Klezmatics: On Holy Ground*, which is making its world premiere at our Festival. We are very proud to present the story of one of the best-known klezmer bands in the world, and the only klezmer band to have won a Grammy Award, which they received for their album of Woody Guthrie songs.

The film takes us on a world tour of klezmer music. We see the band perform with such talented guests as Chava Alberstein, Joshua Nelson and others. We also accompany the Klezmatics on a visit to Germany and Poland, as they search for their roots and the roots of their music. This is a film that should not be missed, and three members of the Klezmatics, Frank London, Lorin Sklamberg and Lisa Gutkin, will be at the theatre to perform a mini-concert, live and in person.

This is yet another bumper year for the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, with almost 100 films on our schedule. I know you can't watch all the films, but all the films are certainly worth watching. So enjoy as many as you can, because the next nine days are filled with lots of wonderful films we are sure will excite and entertain you.





A MATTER OF SIZE (SIPUR GADOL)

TORONTO PREMIERE
ISRAEL/FRANCE/GERMANY 2009, 90 MIN
HEBREW, JAPANESE WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTORS: SHARON MAYMON, EREZ TADMOR
CAST: DVIR BENEDEK, ITZIK COHEN, SHMULIK COHEN,
LEVANA FINKELSTEIN

- ► SATURDAY APRIL 17 9:15 PM BLOOR CINEMA
- ► SUNDAY APRIL 18 8 PM SHEPPARD CENTRE

Herzl joins a fitness club to get into shape, but the process turns out to be sheer torture and the results are disappointing. Losing weight and getting fit is not easy. Finally fed up with the ridicule he faces on a daily basis, Herzl chances upon sumo wrestling as a way to turn his size into self-respect. He manages to convince some friends to join him, and they all learn some important lessons about life itself. Described by *Variety* as displaying "a finely honed visual sense and superb comic timing," *A Matter of Size* contains a little bit of everything—comedy, romance, friendship. In the tradition of *The Full Monty*, this charming film features winning performances by an excellent cast and a moral about self-image for all of us, big or small, to ponder.

GUEST INVITED

OPENING NIGHT GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY



AJAMI

ISRAEL/GERMANY 2009, 120 MIN
HEBREW, ARABIC WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTORS: SCANDAR COPTI, YARON SHANI
CAST: FOUAD HABASH, IBRAHIM FREGE, SCANDAR COPTI,
SHAHIR KABAHA. ERAN NAIM

► SUNDAY APRIL 25 • 8:45 PM • BLOOR CINEMA

This powerful drama uses five interconnected stories to explore the lives of the Christian, Muslim and Jewish inhabitants in the mixed Jaffa neighbourhood of Ajami: a young Israeli fighting a criminal vendetta against his family, a Palestinian refugee working illegally to finance life-saving surgery, a Jewish police detective obsessed with finding his missing brother and a Palestinian dreaming of a future with his Jewish girlfriend. The two directors of the film—an Israeli Arab and an Israeli Jew—have put together a powerful and moving film that deals realistically with the characters it focuses on and spins stories that are only strengthened by their interdependency. *Ajami* has won a host of prizes, including the Wolgin Prize at the Jerusalem Film Festival, the Ophir Prize for Best Israeli Film of 2009 and an Academy Award® nomination.

CLOSING NIGHT GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY





NUREMBERG: ITS LESSON FOR TODAY (1948) [THE 2009 SCHULBERG/WALETZSKY RESTORATION]

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
USA/GERMANY 1948/2009, 80 MINUTES
ENGLISH, GERMAN, FRENCH, RUSSIAN WITH SUBTITLES
WRITER/DIRECTOR: STUART SCHULBERG
EDITOR: JOSEPH ZIGMAN
PRODUCERS: STUART SCHULBERG & PARE LORENTZ
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR: ERIC POMMER,
OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT/U.S.
MUSICAL SCORE: HANS-OTTO BORGMANN
RESTORATION CREATED BY: SANDRA SCHULBERG & JOSH WALETZKY
NARRATOR: LIEV SCHREIBER
MUSICAL SCORE RECONSTRUCTION: JOHN CALIFRA

SUNDAY APRIL 18 • 7 PM • BLOOR CINEMA

"Let Nuremberg stand as a warning to all who plan and wage aggressive war."

—Justice Robert H. Jackson, Chief U.S. Prosecutor, $1^{\rm st}$ Nuremberg Trial, 1945–46

The TJFF is honoured to present the North American Premiere of Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today, meticulously and painstakingly restored by Sandra Schulberg and Josh Waletzky. Completed in 1948, and widely shown in German cinemas during 1948-49, the film was subsequently withheld from American cinemas by the U.S. government for a number of reasons, including the graphic nature of its content. There may have been concern that reaction to the film might have an adverse impact on public support for the rebuilding of Germany's economy, a major plank of the postwar Marshall Plan. But as Sandra Schulberg discovered in her research, the decision proved controversial, as revealed in several investigative news stories that appeared during the fall of 1949 in major U.S. papers. Producer Pare Lorentz even offered to buy the film from the government and release it himself. His offer was refused. In any event, the English-language version of the film was never properly completed, and the original picture negative and sound elements were lost or destroyed.

One of the greatest courtroom dramas in history, *Nuremberg* illustrates how the four Allied prosecution teams built their case against the top Nazi war criminals during a trial that lasted from November 20, 1945, to October 1, 1946 (and which is officially known as the International Military Tribunal). The film is an invaluable historical document that traces the Nazi rise to power and Hitler's strategy during WWII, and is startlingly relevant in depicting the establishment of the "Nuremberg principles"—the foundation for all subsequent trials for crimes against humanity. *Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today* also presents irrefutable proof that the Jews were Hitler's primary victims.

The film's narrative structure mirrors the four counts of indictment, and the courtroom sequences are intercut with the Nazis' own documents and films. Much of the film footage was found by brothers Stuart and Budd Schulberg, members of John Ford's special OSS Field Photographic Branch/War Crimes Unit, and was compiled (with the help of their colleagues Ray Kellogg, Joe Zigman and Bob Parrish) into a four-hour evidentiary film, *The Nazi Plan*. The same team created a 60-minute compilation of Allied footage, *Nazi Concentration Camps*, which shocked the courtroom when it was presented on November 29, 1945.

Nuremberg builds to a climax with the summations of the four chief prosecutors and the chilling verdicts of the Allied judges. Nuremberg is an incredible piece of cinematic history that can now be seen in an international version that, for the first time, allows you to hear the participants speaking in their own languages. Riveting ... extraordinarily powerful ... and not-to-be missed.

WARNING: GRAPHIC ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE.

GUESTS: JOURNALIST EVAN SOLOMON, HOST OF CBC
NEWSNETWORK'S POWER AND POLITICS WITH EVAN SOLOMON;
SANDRA SCHULBERG, RESTORATION PROJECT DIRECTOR;
AND JOSH WALETZKY, RESTORATION PICTURE/SOUND EDITOR

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY ANONYMOUS



AHEAD OF TIME

USA 2009, 73 MIN DIRECTOR: BOR RICHMAN

- ► TUESDAY APRIL 20 5:30 PM AL GREEN THEATRE
- ► THURSDAY APRIL 22 6:30 PM SHEPPARD CENTRE

A moving documentary about journalist, author and humanitarian Ruth Gruber, who became the world's youngest PhD at age 20. She was among the first journalists to report from the Soviet Arctic, covered the Nuremberg trials as well as the United Nations Committee that decided to partition Palestine, campaigned to allow Holocaust refugees into the U.S. and was an eyewitness to the plight of the passengers on the Exodus 1947, conveying their pleas for justice to the entire world.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING FILM

THE IRENE HILDA STORY (L'HISTOIRE D'IRENE)

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE FRANCE 2009, 45 MIN ENGLISH, FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: DAMIAN PETTIGREW

Jewish cabaret singer Irene Hilda and her brother, orchestra conductor Bernard, spent their childhood travelling from France to the U.S. and, during the '20s, back to France again, where they joined Paris's jazz scene inhabited mostly by Black and Jewish artists. Upon the fall of France, the siblings were separated and forced into exile. What followed was a series of unpredictable events filled with drama, humour, glamour and excitement.

GUEST: AHEAD OF TIME PRODUCER ZEVA OELBAUM GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY





AMERICAN SPLENDOR <



USA 2003, 101 MIN DIRECTORS: SHARL SPRINGER BERMAN ROBERT PULCINI CAST: PAUL GIAMATTI, HOPE DAVIS, JUDAH FRIEDLANDER, JAMES UBANIUK, HARVEY PEKAR, JOYCE BRABNER

► MONDAY APRIL 19 • NOON • AL GREEN THEATRE

Based on two of writer Harvey Pekar's popular comicbook series (American Splendor and Our Cancer Year), this Oscar®-nominated and multi-award-winning feature ingeniously interweaves documentary footage of the real-life Harvey Pekar and his wife, Joyce Brabner, with uncanny performances by Paul Giamatti and Hope Davis. The story of the former file clerk from Clevelanda compulsive jazz lover and collector, and a curmudgeonly "poet of the mundane who knows that all the strategizing in the world can't save a guy from picking the wrong supermarket checkout line"—is innovatively captured in this cinematic gem, from Pekar's friendship and collaboration with artist Robert Crumb and others, to the creation of his own unique brand of underground comic books and his rise to fame with appearances on the David Letterman Show.

GUEST: HARVEY PEKAR



AMOS OZ: THE NATURE OF DREAMS

ISRAEL/CANADA 2009, 86 MIN
HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTORS: MASHA ZUR GLOZMAN, YONATHAN ZUR
► SUNDAY APRIL 25 • 1:30 PM • BLOOR CINEMA

Amos Oz may be the most important writer in Israel today. He is well-known for his support of Israel's existence and for its maintenance of its character and future. He is also well-known for his criticism of government policies and his sense of social justice. In this film (which offers a broader perspective than the film on Oz TJFF screened last year), the writer talks about his childhood in Jerusalem, his parents and his life on the kibbutz, as well as the relations between Jews of different origins and the peace process and politics in Israel. The cameras also follow Oz abroad, where he meets with other writers and politicians.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

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ANITA

CANADIAN PREMIERE
ARGENTINA 2009, 106 MIN
SPANISH WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTOR: MARCOS CARNEVALE
CAST: ALEJANDRA MANZO, NORMA ALEANDRO,
LUIS LUQUE, LEONOR MANSO
SUNDAY APRIL 18 • 5:30 PM • SHEPPARD CENTRE
THURSDAY APRIL 22 • 1 PM • BLOOR CINEMA

The morning of July 18, 1994, begins like any other day, but things change suddenly when the nearby Argentine Israelite Mutual Association is bombed, sending Anita Feldman's life into a tailspin. Her mother has gone to collect a cheque for government support of Anita, who suffers from Down syndrome. Not understanding what has happened, Anita goes in search of her mother and becomes swept up with people who are disoriented like herself. As Anita, Alejandra Manzo, an actress living with Down syndrome, delivers a stunning performance in this lovely and gentle film.

WEEKDAY MATINEES PRESENTED BY

TORONTO STAR (



AS LILITH

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2009, 77 MIN HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: EYTAN HARRIS

► WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 • NOON • AL GREEN THEATRE

Following the suicide of her 14-year-old daughter, Lilith decides to cremate the girl in keeping with her unconventional religious beliefs. Upon this declaration, the head of the Jewish ultra-Orthodox organization Zaka, which assists in the recovery of human remains after terrorist attacks, declares an all-out war against Lilith, initiating a series of bizarre trials. With incredible access to all parties involved, filmmaker Eytan Harris (*Abe Nathan: As the Sun Sets*, TJFF 2006) tells an engaging, unbiased story that captures the dark humour of these absurd events while pondering the unknowable question of why a young girl took her own life.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING FILM

LONE SAMARITAN

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2009, 50 MIN HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: BARAK HEYMANN

A fascinating look at a tiny, little-known sect who have very strict rules about assimilation because of their fear of extinction. Sophie Tzdaka, an Israeli TV personality, and her three sisters have left the community. Her father, Baruch, one of the most well-known figures in the Samaritan community, is being excommunicated because of his children's rejection of the sect and its mores. The film tells his story through the eyes of his daughter Sophie and depicts a touching father-daughter journey.



BAR MITZVAH

USA 1935, 75 MIN YIDDISH WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: HENRY LYNN CAST: BORIS THOMASHEFSKY, ANITA CHAYES, REGINA ZUCKERBERG. SAM COLTON

► SUNDAY APRIL 25 • 11 AM • BLOOR CINEMA

Actor, singer and producer Boris Thomashefsky (1868–1939) was a pioneer of the American Yiddish theater and one of its central figures for nearly 50 years. *Bar Mitzvah* features his only film performance. Thomashefsky plays a Polish widower whose wife was lost at sea 10 years earlier. He announces his plans to remarry as his son prepares for his bar mitzvah. But it turns out his wife survived the shipwreck and comes home just in time for her husband's remarriage. A wonderful example of high melodrama typical of popular Yiddish theatre at the time, *Bar Mitzvah* also features vaudeville humour, playful songs and dancing. Newly restored and subtitled by the National Centre for Jewish Film.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING SHORT FILM

BALANCING ACTS: A YIDDISH THEATER IN THE SOVIET UNION

WORK-IN-PROGRESS USA 2010, 18 MIN

ENGLISH, YIDDISH WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: SAM BALL

This documentary gem narrated by Ed Asner recounts the exhilarating, ultimately tragic experiment that brought together Marc Chagall, actor Solomon Mikhoels and director Alexander Granovsky to create avant-garde Jewish theatre with unprecedented mass appeal.

GUESTS: DIRECTOR SAM BALL AND COMPOSER/PRODUCER WILLIAM SUSMAN (BALANCING ACTS)

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF JESSE HABERFELD FREEDMAN, LOUIS FREEDMAN AND MORRIS HABERFELD





BERLIN'36

CANADIAN PREMIERE
GERMANY 2009, 97 MIN
GERMAN WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTOR: KASPER HEIDELBACH
CAST: KAROLINE HERFURTH, SEBASTIAN URZENDOWSKY,
AXEL PRAHL, ROBERT GALLINOWSKI, THOMAS THIEME,
JOHANN VONBULOW, AUGUST ZIRNER

- ► SATURDAY APRIL 24 9:15 PM BLOOR CINEMA
- ► SUNDAY APRIL 25 1 PM SHEPPARD CENTRE

America threatened to boycott the 1936 Olympics in Berlin if Jews were excluded. In an attempt to prevent the boycott, the Nazis recruited Gretel Bergmann, a Jewish high jumper, considered the best at her sport in Germany and one of the leading high jumpers in the world. But the Germans didn't really want her and looked for a way to keep her from winning a spot. In addition to disrupting Bergmann's training routine, they even brought in a ringer, a man who had been raised as a woman by his mother, to compete for a high-jumping spot on the team. Berlin '36 is a well-made, engrossing drama based on the true story of a woman's attempts to survive and maintain her dignity and respect while under tremendous pressure. A great companion to What If? The Helene Mayer Story.

WARNING: NUDITY
GUEST INVITED

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY MARSHA BRONFMAN

BRIDE FLIGHT

CANADIAN PREMIERE
NETHERLANDS 2008, 130 MIN
DUTCH WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTOR: BEN SOMBOGAART
CAST: KARINA SMULDERS, ELISE SCHAAP, ANNA DRIJVER,
WALDEMAR TOENSTRA, RUTGER HAUER

- ► WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 8 PM BLOOR CINEMA
- ► SATURDAY APRIL 24 9:15 PM RICHMOND HILL

This epic film begins with a 1953 air race that is won by a Dutch plane carrying, among others, women joining their fiancés in New Zealand. The story focuses on three of these women and a male hunk, Frank, who befriends them on the plane. When Frank dies years later, all the women gather for his funeral, and their stories play out in a series of well-structured flashbacks where we learn how each is intimately connected to Frank and to each other. Beautiful photography that takes full advantage of the New Zealand landscape and a storyline that spans several decades combine to make this an intriguing romantic story, in which the actions of the characters have repercussions on their lives for years to come, proving that past and present are inextricably linked.

WARNING: NUDITY

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY STEPHEN AND COOKIE SANDLER



BROTHERS (FRÈRES)

SWITZERLAND 2008, 116 MIN
HEBREW, SPANISH WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTOR: IGAAL NIDDAM
CAST: BARUCH BRENER, ORNA FITOUSSI, MICHA SELECTAR
SUNDAY APRIL 18 • 1 PM • RICHMOND HILL

Brothers Dan and Aaron meet in Israel after many years apart, only to discover how different they have become. Dan is a secular Jew living on a kibbutz, while Aaron is an Orthodox lawyer and Torah scholar from the U.S., who has come to Israel to fight a court case. The conflict between the brothers is echoed in the legal battle, which highlights the issue of separation of state and religion in modern Israel. A fascinating argument that will certainly provoke discussion!



THE BROTHERS WARNER

USA 2008, 90 MIN DIRECTOR: CASS WARNER

► SUNDAY APRIL 25 • 1:15 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE

Made by the granddaughter of Harry Warner, The Brothers Warner offers an intimate portrait of the legendary family who rose from immigrant poverty and created a major Hollywood studio with a strong social conscience. In 1934, Warner Bros. was the first studio to boycott Germany; in 1939, it produced the first Hollywood film to confront Nazism, Confessions of a Nazi Spy. The studio also tried to make a film called Concentration Camp, but was stopped. Unlike most documentaries about the Hollywood studio system, this wonderful film goes beyond the conventional mythology and delivers a very human story of the brothers—the strategic general, Harry Warner; honest Abe; visionary Sam; and volatile Jack-who produced such iconic films as The Jazz Singer, Casablanca and The Adventures of Robin Hood. The Brothers Warner explores the family rivalries and personal tragedies, as well as the Jewish roots that shaped these larger-than-life men.



CINEMA'S EXILES: FROM HITLER TO HOLLYWOOD

USA 2009, 117 MIN DIRECTOR: KAREN THOMAS

- ► SUNDAY APRIL 18 1 PM SHEPPARD CENTRE
- ► WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 1 PM BLOOR CINEMA

When Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany in 1933, one of his earliest actions was to ban Jews from working in that country's innovative film industry. European-born film artists such as Billy Wilder, Fritz Lang, Henry Koster and Peter Lorre, who had previously created landmarks of the German cinema, fled their homeland. *Cinema's Exiles* traces the experiences of those refugees who went to Hollywood and explores their influence on American cinema. This entertaining and intelligent documentary profiles those whose careers had to be restarted in Hollywood and their struggles with the new language and culture. The film also features clips and discussions of these artists' contributions to such memorable films as *Casablanca, Double Indemnity, To Be or Not to Be* and *High Noon*.

WEEKDAY MATINEES PRESENTED BY

TORONTO STAR (



CLAUDE LANZMANN, AN ODE TO LIFE

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE FRANCE 2009, 52 MIN FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: SYLVAIN ROUMETTE

► THURSDAY APRIL 22 • NOON • AL GREEN THEATRE

A revealing documentary portrait of filmmaker Claude Lanzmann, whose monumental film *Shoah* (1985) challenged previous cinematic depictions of the Holocaust. Director Sylvain Roumette explores Lanzmann's high school years in Clermont-Ferrand, where he joined the French Resistance against the Nazis; his post-war years in Berlin; his career as a journalist; and his relationship with the writer Simone de Beauvoir. Lanzmann also discusses the philosophy behind the moral and artistic choices he made while producing *Shoah*. A memorable portrait of an iconoclastic and deeply humanistic individual.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING FILM

GITAI IN SEARCH OF HIS CARMEL

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2009, 50 MIN HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES DIRFCTOR: RAN TAL

Over the past 30 years, Israeli director Amos Gitai has gained international acclaim for his provocative, original films. Here, as Gitai is followed by a camera crew for six weeks during the production of his recent film *Carmel*, we gain insight into the unique and unconventional manner in which he shoots his films. *Gitai in Search of His Carmel* is a wonderful primer for the director's work that will satisfy both Gitai fans and newcomers to his work.



COCO

CANADIAN PREMIERE FRANCE 2009, 95 MIN FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: GAD ELMALEH

CAST: GAD ELMALEH, PASCALE ARBILLOT, JEAN BENGUIGUI

- ► MONDAY APRIL 19 3:15 PM BLOOR CINEMA
- ► WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 6 PM RICHMOND HILL

Gad Elmaleh (*Father's Footsteps*, TJFF 2009) is one of the most popular stand-up comedians and actors in France and this is his first directorial effort. In *Coco*, he stars as a well-liked, self-made man who goes a little overboard when he learns that he has a heart defect; he decides to turn his son's bar mitzvah into a huge spectacle, inviting some 6,000 guests. Featuring a very likeable performance by Elmaleh, *Coco* is full of broad humour, slapstick and playful puns.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING SHORT FILM

I AM RUTHIE SEGAL, HEAR ME ROAR

UK 2009, 10 MIN DIRECTOR: MINKIE SPIRO

A girl defies her parents' expectations on her bat mitzvah day.

WEEKDAY MATINEES PRESENTED BY

TORONTO STAR (

THE COMIC ART FORUM 🥌 FREE!

WITH HARVEY PEKAR, BEN KATCHOR AND PAUL BUHLE 90 MIN

► SUNDAY APRIL 18 • 4 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE

What's new in Jews and comics, and ... what's old! This lively forum—with special guests and listeners joining the conversation—will probe familiar questions (what is it about comic art that drew Jewish artists in the first place?) and go on to recent ones (why is 90 percent of comic art on the web?). Just some of the other topics: Where is the comics industry going, now that the traditional comic book of the pulp variety is dying, and what has happened since comics became a growth industry, but mainly for the sale of superhero characters to Hollywood? Paul Buhle (author or editor of 42 books) and Harvey Pekar (American Splendor) have collaborated on a series of comic art volumes, including The Beats, Students for a Democratic Society, an adaptation of Studs Terkel's Working and the forthcoming Yiddishland. Graphic novelist Ben Katchor ("The most poetic, deeply layered artist ever to draw a comic strip") is the only cartoonist to receive a "genius" MacArthur Fellowship. Katchor's most recent pop opera (in collaboration with Mark Mulcahy) will be performed at Lincoln Center in May.



COMIC BOOK CONFIDENTIAL **5**



CANADA 1988, 90 MIN DIRECTOR: RON MANN

► TUESDAY APRIL 20 • 2 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE

Canadian filmmaker Ron Mann's acclaimed documentary is a terrific introduction to TJFF's sidebar series, offering an entertaining, insightful survey of a largely unrecognized art form. Through interviews, animated montages and readings, the film traces the journey of comic book art through the 1930s and '40s and the explosive popularity of superheroes, through to the groundbreaking work of Will Eisner and the crime and horror comics of the 1950s. Comic Book Confidential also looks at the impact of the Comic Code, which cited comic books as a major cause of juvenile delinquency, resulting in the chilling effect of censorship. Mad Magazine defiantly survived the era, profoundly influencing everything that came after it. The film also looks at the rise of Stan Lee's Marvel Comics and the independent and underground "comix" of the '60s and beyond. Appearing as commentators and participants are a roster of Jewish masters of comic art, including Art Spiegelman, Harvey Pekar, Stan Lee, Will Eisner, Jack Kirby and Harvey Kurtzman.

PRESENTED WITH EXCERPT

THE SECRET OF DRAWING— **Daniel Clowes**

An excerpt from a British TV series, introduced by Andrew Graham-Dixon, features a rare look at reclusive American cartoonist Daniel Clowes (Ghost World), (15 min)

GUEST INVITED

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY



DUBAK: A PALESTINIAN JEW

ISRAEL 2008, 60 MIN HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: ELLA ALTERMAN

► WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 • 3 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE

An enigmatic figure in the Gush Etzion region of the West Bank, Dubak is a complex, religious man who mourns the son he lost to the violence between Jewish settlers and their Arab neighbours. Despite the conflict, Dubak works with the Arabs on a search-and-rescue mission to assist those who get lost in the vast Judean desert. A poet and philosopher, he feels no ties to Israeli politics, but only love for the soil on which he stands. An engrossing and heart-wrenching documentary about the wisdom that can come out of great anguish and even greater resolve.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING FILM

ACHZIV, A PLACE FOR LOVE

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2009, 55 MIN HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: ETTY WIESELTIER

Eli Avivi has made a home for himself in an abandoned Arab village in the north of Israel, creating a sanctuary for bohemians of all ages. Here they can be with friends and like-minded people from around the world and can indulge in drugs and free love. Over the years, the Israeli authorities have threatened to close down Avivi's "paradise." At the same time, friends and dignitaries continue to visit him and pay homage to a way of life that is disappearing.



ELI & BEN

ISRAEL 2008, 90 MIN
HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTOR: ORI RAVID
CAST: LIOR ASHKENAZI, YUVAL SHEVACH, TZAHI GRAD
► SUNDAY APRIL 18 • 6:15 PM • RICHMOND HILL

Twelve-year-old Eli's world is turned upside down when his father, the city architect for Herzliya, is accused of taking a bribe to facilitate the construction of a new building that would otherwise not have been approved by the city. Eli's trust and belief in his father is thrown into question, and he faces a barrage of hostility from his friends and schoolmates. Eli winds up questioning everything he believes in and has to decide whether to do the right thing or the easy thing. This is one of those rare films that delves into father-son relationships and poses the question of whether children can really believe everything their parents tell them.



EXODUS: THE TRUE STORY

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2009, 79 MIN HEBREW, FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTORS: ITZIK LERNER, URI BORREDA

- ► SUNDAY APRIL 18 3:20 PM SHEPPARD CENTRE
- ► SUNDAY APRIL 25 6 PM BLOOR CINEMA

The *Exodus 1947* was an ancient American riverboat called the *President Warfield* that was refitted to carry 4,500 Holocaust survivors to Palestine. The only obstacle was the British navy boats that patrolled the seas in search of Jewish ships carrying such immigrants. When the *Exodus* was spotted in the Mediterranean, British warships kept it under close surveillance and eventually rammed the ship. They forced the passengers onto three British prison ships and transported them to detention camps in Germany. This film follows three of the passengers and tells the story of their harrowing experiences through their memories, as well as those of French and British witnesses.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING SHORT FILM

COHEN ON THE BRIDGE: RESCUE AT ENTEBBE

FRANCE/ISRAEL/UK/USA 2009, 20 MIN DIRECTOR: ANDREW WAINRIB

An animated chronicle of the terrorist hijacking of Air France Flight 139 and the Israeli military rescue effort at Entebbe.

GUEST: DIRECTOR ANDREW WAINRIB

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY





EYES WIDE OPEN (EINAYIM PHUHOT)

ISRAEL/GERMANY/FRANCE 2009, 91 MIN HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: HAIM TABAKMAN

CAST: ZOHAR SHTRAUSS, RAN DANKER, TINKERBELL, TZAHI GRAD

- ► MONDAY APRIL 19 8 PM BLOOR CINEMA
- ► TUESDAY APRIL 20 8:15 PM RICHMOND HILL

What happens when a married man with a family in the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community in Jerusalem falls in love with another man? A father of four sons, Aaron faces great temptation when a young man shows up at his butcher shop. The film sensitively deals with some of the problems the religious Orthodox must contend with when they wander from the straight and narrow; they might be visited by the "purity police" or face the condemnation of the entire community.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING SHORT FILM

SINNER

ISRAEL 2009, 28 MIN ENGLISH, HEBREW, ITALIAN WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: MENI PHILIP

Thirteen-year-old Yotam is a student at an ultra-Orthodox yeshiva. Confused by his budding sexuality, he confides in his rabbi, which leads to tragic results.

CO-PRESENTED WITH





THE FALSE FOREST AND OTHER PICTURE-STORIES

A READING BY BEN KATCHOR, 60 MIN

► MONDAY APRIL 19 • 8:30 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE

In this special live appearance, graphic novelist Ben Katchor (The Jew of New York, Julius Kniple: Real Estate Photographer) will read from his short stories, accompanied by projected images of his comic art illustrations, on the subjects of architecture and urban design. Katchor, "the most poetic, deeply layered artist ever to draw a comic strip" (New York Times Book Review), is the only cartoonist to receive a "genius" MacArthur Fellowship. He has also written for the stage, including three pop operas with composer Mark Mulcahy; he's a former contributor to Art Spiegelman's Raw; and he's a regular contributor to The New Yorker and The Forward. Katchor's picture-stories appear in *Metropolis Magazine*. According to author Michael Chabon, "We have neverat least not since Herriman (Krazy Kat) —had a writer like Katchor.... Though his style in no way resembles that of Jack Kirby or Will Eisner, Ben Katchor is along with them one of the three great depictors of New York City in the history of comics.... Katchor's style, like all the great styles, is addictive.... In the end it isn't nostalgia but loneliness of an impossible beauty and profundity that is the great theme...."



FIVE HOURS FROM PARIS (HAMESH SHAOT ME'PARIZ)

ISRAEL 2009, 90 MIN HEBREW, RUSSIAN WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: LEONID PRUDOVSKY

CAST: DROR KEREN, ELENA YARALOVA, VLADIMIR FREEDMAN

- ► WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 8:30 PM SHEPPARD CENTRE
- ► THURSDAY APRIL 22 2:30 PM AL GREEN THEATRE

Sometimes the most powerful love hides beneath the surface of the most ordinary people. When divorced cab driver Yigal drops his son off at school, he meets Lina, a married woman on the brink of leaving Israel to join her husband in Canada. Neither is looking for romance, but somehow they find themselves drawn to each other, and their conventional lives are radically transformed. With a stunning performance by Dror Keren (*Adam Resurrected* and *Aviva, My Love*), the film reveals the beauty and ache of awakening romance. An extremely strong feature debut for director Leonid Prudovsky, *Five Hours from Paris* marks the beginning of a new voice in film.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY





FRAGMENTS (RESISIM)

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2009, 50 MIN HEBREW, RUSSIAN WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: YONATAN HAIMOVICH

► SUNDAY APRIL 25 • 3:30 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE

After a series of tragic events, the filmmaker journeys back to the Jerusalem apartment complex that once housed his family upon their emigration from the Soviet Union, in an attempt to reconnect with those few remaining pieces of his childhood. Through his exploration of the faces, stories and memories of the people that shaped his life, he skillfully weaves a poetic tapestry of passionate but alienated figures all sharing in the sadness of their own personal tragedies. This touching, beautiful personal documentary manages to transcend to the universal in its examination of the fragile nature of the human spirit.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING FILM

THE VALDERAMA SISTERS

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
ISRAEL 2009, 48 MIN
SPANISH, HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTORS: NOAM DEMSKY, MORDI KERSHNER

The strong, independent Valderama sisters are part of Peru's Bnei Moshe community, which consists of former Catholics in the final throes of converting to Judaism, with the ultimate goal of immigrating to Israel. In February 2005, a rabbinical conversion court is sent by Israel to officiate at the conversion of those who qualify. We follow these sisters through the conversion, the departure from Peru and their arrival in Israel, where they face the reality and culture shock of their new home.

GUEST: ANER PREMINGER OF THE SAPIR FILM SCHOOL, WHERE FRAGMENTS WAS PRODUCED



FRITZ THE CAT **5**



DIRECTOR: RALPH BAKSHI

► SATURDAY APRIL 24 • MIDNIGHT • BLOOR CINEMA

The first X-rated animated feature (written, directed and produced by Israeli-born Ralph Bakshi) is based on Robert Crumb's comic strip from the heyday of the underground comix scene. In this cult hit, Fritz the college-aged feline, a very smooth operator, gets mixed up in sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll ... and the hippie counterculture of the '60s."... more than a dirty cartoon—(Bakshi) and his raunchy on-screen characters puncture just about every myth and sacred cow they swing at. It reminds one of comic Mort Sahl's ingenuous query, 'Is there anyone I haven't offended?"—Steven H. Scheuer

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY





GAY DAYS (HAZMAN HAVAROD)

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2009, 71 MIN HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: YAIR QEDAR

► SUNDAY APRIL 18 • 8:45 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE

In 1985, there were three openly gay people in Israel. By 1998, there were 3,000. Filmmaker Yair Qedar, who initially documented this dramatic revolution for the newspaper *The Pink Times*, energetically combines archival materials and personal stories of those who pushed for change, to chronicle this largely untold story. Prominent among those interviewed is TJFF favourite Eytan Fox, whose films *Gotta Have Heart*, *Yossi & Jagger* and *The Bubble* and TV programme *Florentine*—which all previously played at our Festival—are contextualized within the dramatic events that are told in this wonderful film.

CO-PRESENTED WITH

<u>inside**out**</u>



GLOOMY SUNDAY (EIN LIED VON LIEBE UND TOD)

GERMANY/HUNGARY 1999, 110 MIN ENGLISH, GERMAN, HUNGARIAN WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: ROLF SCHÜBEL CAST: BEN BECKER, STEFANO DIONISI, JOACHIM KROL, ERIKA MAROZSAN

► MONDAY APRIL 19 • 8:15 PM • RICHMOND HILL

Gloomy Sunday, a film our audience cannot get enough of, is back, in honour of the Festival's 18th year. The title refers to the notorious Hungarian "suicide hymn-song" composed in 1935, a haunting melody full of hopelessness and despair. When three men fall in love with the same woman, the song will link them far beyond the popular Budapest café where they first meet. A mix of drama and humour, the film has become a TJFF tradition.

WARNING: NUDITY



HAREDIM: A DOCUMENTARY TRILOGY

CANADIAN PREMIERE
ISRAEL 2009, 150 MIN
HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTORS: RON OFER, YOHAI HAKAK
FRIDAY APRIL 23 • 1 PM • BLOOR CINEMA

This award-winning television series allows us a rare glimpse into the world of the Haredi community in Israel. Gevald introduces Shmuel-Haim Pappenhym, a radical ultra-Orthodox leader who organizes demonstrations against the State of Israel and is the editor of a magazine of the Jewish extreme sect known for not recognizing the State of Israel. On the other hand, ultra-Orthodox Rabbi Avraham Ravitz is a mainstream politician. As national elections approach, the perspectives of both men are challenged. The Rabbi's Daughter and the Midwife focuses on two women: Adina Bar, who trains women in social work to service the needs of ultra-Orthodox women, and Rachel Chalkowski, head nurse and midwife, who established a charitable foundation for the impoverished and dares to counsel women, even in the area of birth control. Religion.com explores the debate surrounding the Internet within the ultra-Orthodox community: Yigal Revach tries to initiate an Internet service that will be accepted as "kosher" by the rabbis, while Rabbi Micha Rothschild warns web providers to stay away from the Haredi community.

GUEST: RABBI TINA GRIMBERG

WEEKDAY MATINEES PRESENTED BY

TORONTO STAR



HEART OF STONE

CANADIAN PREMIERE USA 2008, 84 MIN DIRECTOR: BETH TONI KRUVANT

► WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 • 5:45 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE

Before the 1960s, Newark's Weequahic High School was an academically distinguished, mostly Jewish enclave, immortalized in the novels of Philip Roth, its most famous alumnus. When Ron Stone became principal in 2001, the school had become one of the most violent in the country. Determined to restore the school to its former glory, Stone resolved to work with gang members, creating a violence-free zone where grievances were solved through conflict-resolution sessions. Stone enlists the help of former alumni—mostly Jewish—and young African-Americans to raise scholarship funds and encourage students to pursue their education and secure their hopes for the future. An inspirational documentary, *Heart of Stone* was produced by actor Zach Braff (*Scrubs*, *Garden State*), whose father is the co-founder of the school's alumni association.

GUEST: DIRECTOR BETH TONI KRUVANT
GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE SHARNA FOUNDATION AND





HIDDEN CHILDREN (L'AFFAIRE FINALY)

FRANCE 2008, 90 MIN FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: FABRICE GENESTAL

CAST: CHARLOTTE DE TURCKHEIM, PIERRE CASSIGNARD

- ► SUNDAY APRIL 18 1 PM BLOOR CINEMA
- ► TUESDAY APRIL 20 4:30 PM SHEPPARD CENTRE

When their parents are rounded up in France and transported to concentration camps in Eastern Europe, two brothers are taken in by a French Gentile woman, and in this way the boys survive the Holocaust. Once the war ends, their rescuer refuses to turn the children over to an aunt in Israel, as the parents had directed. When the aunt attempts to find the boys, the rescuer has them baptized, to engage the Church in the battle for their custody. This legal case made headlines throughout France and was often compared to the Dreyfus Affair. Hidden Children is an engrossing and well-made drama based on this true story.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING SHORT FILM

SARAH & HAYAH

CANADA 2009, 2 MIN DIRECTOR: ADI TARGOWNIK

In this expressionistic animated short, two young friends are taken by train to a concentration camp.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE GANZ FAMILY FOUNDATION



HONOR (KAVOD)

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2010, 120 MIN HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: HAIM BOUZAGLO

CAST: ZE'EV REVACH, SHMIL BEN ARI, ALBERT ILUZ

- ► SUNDAY APRIL 18 6:15 PM AL GREEN THEATRE
- ► MONDAY APRIL 19 6:15 PM SHEPPARD CENTRE

In the tradition of *The Godfather* comes *Honor*, a compelling portrait of the Israeli underworld. Two Moroccan families—the Berdugos and the Marcianos—declare war on each other, as a dispute over an Eastern European casino leads to increasing tragedy. Only the initiatives of one of the Marciano sons, an officer in the Israeli army, and a daughter of the Berdugo family, a respected lawyer, can end this escalating violence. Director Haim Bouzaglo (*Re-Birth*) injects this film with sensitivity and attention to detail, especially when depicting the religious rituals and the status of women within the two families.

WARNING: NUDITY AND VIOLENCE
GUEST: DIRECTOR HAIM BOUZAGLO



IDA'S DANCE CLUB

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2009, 59 MIN HEBREW, RUSSIAN WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: DALIT KIMOR

► WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 • 4:30 PM • SHEPPARD CENTRE

A charming and thoroughly enjoyable documentary about a dance club in Israel that takes people away from their everyday lives. Most of the members of the dance club look forward to the annual ballroom dance competition, in which age is not a factor. In fact, all of the competitors are past retirement, but that doesn't limit them. They dance; they sing; they fall in love, even though the participants don't know each other outside of the club. Dancing gives them the strength and encouragement to overcome their problems, as well as a safe haven from life's difficulties.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING SHORT FILM

POINT OF VIEW

ISRAEL 2008, 18 MIN
HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTOR: AVISHAG LEIBOVICH

Seventeen-year-old Noa spends a conflict-filled weekend aiding her aging grandmother who is losing her eyesight.



INSIDE HANA'S SUITCASE

CANADA/CZECH REPUBLIC 2009, 88 MIN ENGLISH, CZECH, JAPANESE WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: LARRY WEINSTEIN

► SUNDAY APRIL 18 • 3:30 PM • RICHMOND HILL

A documentary with some dramatized scenes tells of Hana and George Brady, who were shipped off to a concentration camp during the Holocaust, and the modern story of a group of Japanese children and their passionate teacher, Fumiko Ishioka, who helped them solve the mystery of Hana Brady. When Ishioka decided to open a Holocaust museum in Japan, she managed to obtain a suitcase from the museum in Auschwitz. The suitcase had Hana's name on it, and the teacher and students discovered that Hana's brother, George, had survived the Holocaust and now lives in Toronto. Director Larry Weinstein (*Beethoven's Hair*, TJFF 2006) uses children to tell Hana's story and transports us back and forth in time and across three continents, carrying us from sadness and despondence to hope for the future.

GUESTS: DIRECTOR LARRY WEINSTEIN AND HANA'S BROTHER, GEORGE BRADY



IRREVERENT IMAGINATION: THE GOLDEN AGE OF LOONEY TUNES

USA 2003, 50 MIN

DIRECTOR: CONSTANTINE NASR

► SUNDAY APRIL 25 • 11 AM • AL GREEN THEATRE

Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig, Tweety and Sylvester ... these and other indelible characters exploded onto the screen from the Warner Brothers animation studio (formerly Harman-Ising Pictures) under producer Leon Schlesinger and senior director Isadore "Friz" Freleng (a former Disney animator and creator of the Pink Panther character). Schlesinger and Freleng, along with voice actor Mel Blanc and composer Carl Stalling, collaborated with Jewish and non-Jewish animators and writers to produce some of the funniest toons of all times—the wild and witty Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies that flourished from the 1930s through the '60s. Stan Freberg, Leonard Maltin, Noel Blanc (Mel's son), Chuck Jones and others describe the "complete anarchism" of Looney Tunes and the individual contribution of each of the series' creators.

PRESENTED WITH LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS (30 MIN)
GUEST INVITED



ISRAEL LTD.

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2009, 52 MIN ENGLISH, HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: MOR LOUSHY

► FRIDAY APRIL 23 • 2:15 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE

This revealing documentary follows three young Jews from North America who go to Israel as part of a youth programme called the Israel Experience, whose aim is to create "ambassadors" for Israel. *Israel Ltd.* captures the experiences of the three visiting youths—Ilana and William from the U.S., and Jack from Toronto—and documents their reaction to Israel, its military and its ethos of sacrifice. Sometimes critical, this compelling film invites us to reflect on the image that Israel presents of itself around the world, as well as to watch the evolution of the young participants.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING SHORT FILM

PRRRRIDE

NETHERLANDS/ISRAEL 2008, 3 MIN DIRECTORS: EITAN EFRAT, SIRAH FOIGHEL BRUTMANN

Powerfully expressing the contradictions of Israeli identity, a young Israeli becomes a one-man marching band as he recalls his mother's fears about him serving in the army.

GUEST INVITED



JAFFA, THE ORANGE'S CLOCKWORK

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL/FRANCE/BELGIUM/GERMANY 2009, 92 MIN ENGLISH, HEBREW, ARABIC, FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: EYAL SIVAN

- ► TUESDAY APRIL 20 8:15 PM BLOOR CINEMA
- ► THURSDAY APRIL 22 9:15 PM SHEPPARD CENTRE

In this illuminating documentary, the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is told through the icon of the "Jaffa orange." Through photography and cinema, poetry, paintings, as well as interviews with historians, poets and former citrus growers, iconoclastic filmmaker Eyal Sivan shows how Jaffa started out as the name of a Palestinian town before becoming a successful Israeli brand. He reconstructs the orange industry of the prestate days when Jews worked alongside Arabs. Now, as the film suggests, the Jaffa orange has become an image bound with ideological significance. Depicted in this moving documentary is celebrated Israeli poet Haim Gouri, reflecting on the fruit as "both a source of pride as a fine agricultural product we all remember from our youth, and also a metaphor for a world destroyed. It carries immense pain and a sense of vengeance, yet also an effort to repair the rupture." A powerful and unforgettable film.

GUEST INVITED



THE JAZZ BARONESS

UK 2008, 90 MIN DIRECTOR: HANNAH ROTHSCHILD

► MONDAY APRIL 19 • 2:45 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE

Filmmaker Hannah Rothschild tells the intriguing story of her great-aunt Baroness Pannonica Rothschild and her love of jazz, as explored through her long relationship with legendary pianist and composer Thelonious Monk. In this absorbing documentary, director Rothschild tries to unravel the mystery of why her family wanted the baroness's past kept quiet. Helen Mirren reads from some of the baroness's own diary entries, and the film is beautifully augmented by a soundtrack featuring 27 recordings of songs written and recorded by Monk for Nica, as she was called. A portrait of a colourful character as well as a reflection of her times, *The Jazz Baroness* also features interviews with Quincy Jones, Sonny Rollins, Clint Eastwood and the Duchess of Devonshire.



JOANN SFAR DRAWS FROM MEMORY (#) FREE!

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

FRANCE/USA 2010, 60 MIN FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: SAM BALL

► SATURDAY APRIL 24 • 7 PM • BLOOR CINEMA

This work-in-progress, part of a special spotlight programme on documentary filmmaker Sam Ball (see also *Balancing Acts*), tracks Joann Sfar, author of *The Rabbi's Cat* and *Klezmer*, on an odyssey through the dual Algerian and Eastern European family heritage that is the wellspring of his work. Co-produced by Sophie Constantinou, Estelle Fialon and Valerie Joseph. French comic-book artist/director Joann Sfar's *Le Chat du Rabbin (The Rabbi's Cat)* is slated to be released in Europe as a feature film in June 2010.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING SHORT FILM

PLEASURES OF URBAN DECAY

CANADA/USA, 2000, 18 MIN DIRECTOR: SAM BALL

Graphic novelist Ben Katchor's Yiddish-inflected voice guides us through a vast and shadowy landscape of old skyscrapers, neglected warehouses and all-night cafeterias.

GUESTS: DIRECTOR SAM BALL, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER VALERIE JOSEPH AND PRODUCER LIAM ROMALIS (PLEASURES OF URBAN DECAY)



SPECIAL PRESENTATION THE KLEZMATICS: ON HOLY GROUND

WORLD PREMIERE USA 2010, 108 MIN

DIRECTOR: ERIK GREENBERG ANJOU

► THURSDAY APRIL 22 • 8 PM • BLOOR CINEMA

For over 20 years the Klezmatics have been at the vanguard of the international klezmer revival movement. The Grammy Award-winning group's innovative, downtown N.Y. sensibilities have redefined the boundaries of contemporary Jewish music, through nine albums and collaborations with such diverse artists as Chava Alberstein, Arlo Guthrie, Itzhak Perlman and Joshua Nelson. Following the group through tours in the U.S., Germany and Poland, this strikingly honest documentary portrait reveals the challenges faced by exceptionally creative musicians as they strive to continue making joyous, boundary-breaking music, while balancing the demands of family, career and their own individual personalities.

GUEST: DIRECTOR ERIK GREENBERG ANJOU

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CONCERT

LIVE IN CONCERT! MEMBERS OF THE KLEZMATICS: FRANK LONDON, LORIN SKLAMBERG AND LISA GUTKIN

30 MIN

Throughout their illustrious career, the Klezmatics have persevered through many challenges to continue making their unique brand of wild, mystical, provocative, reflective and ecstatically danceable music. Come celebrate this World Premiere screening with a special pre-film live performance by members of the Klezmatics: FRANK LONDON, LORIN SKLAMBERG and LISA GUTKIN.

GENEROUSLY CO-SPONSORED BY





LAST SON 🥌



CANADIAN PREMIERE USA 2009, 60 MIN DIRECTOR: BRAD RICCA

► TUESDAY APRIL 20 • 8:15 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE

"It's a bird, it's a plane, it's ... Superman!" The Man of Steel took the world by storm when Toronto-born Joe Shuster (artist) and Cleveland native Jerome Siegel (writer) created the character for DC Comics in 1938. This new documentary traces the fascinating story of the invention of the iconic superhero, and posits several theories about the character's origins, including Jewish and other influences that helped shape the Superman mythology. Incorporating never-before-seen archival footage, Last Son looks at the stories behind Superman's mild-mannered secret identity, and what actually happened when Jerry Siegel's father mysteriously died during a robbery. The son of Jewish immigrant parents from Rotterdam and Kiev, Joe Shuster moved to Cleveland from Toronto when he was 10. A cousin to Frank Shuster, of Wayne and Shuster fame, Joe worked as a newsboy for the Toronto Daily Star, which he claims was the model for The Daily Planet.

PRESENTED WITH SUPERMAN CARTOONS FROM THE '40S BY MAX AND DAVE FLEISCHER (30 MIN)

GUEST INVITED



LEBANON

ISRAEL/GERMANY/FRANCE 2009, 94 MIN
HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTOR: SAMUEL MAOZ
CAST: OSHRI COHEN, YOAV DONAT, MICHAEL MOSHONOV,
ZOHAR SHTRAUSS

- ► THURSDAY APRIL 22 8:15 PM AL GREEN THEATRE
- ► SUNDAY APRIL 25 3:30 PM RICHMOND HILL

A lone tank crew and a small group of paratroopers are sent into a small Lebanese town, in June 1982 during the first Lebanon War, to search for PLO terrorists. The mission turns into a nightmare as the tank crew find themselves in a situation they cannot control and survival becomes primary: the main question for the young men inside the tank becomes whether to kill or be killed. This intense, powerful and very personal film takes place almost entirely within the confines of a tank in the middle of combat, and shows the cruelest and most realistic aspects of war. The story is based on the director/screenwriter's own experiences as a gunner inside a tank during the first Lebanon War. Winner of the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival.

WARNING: VIOLENCE AND NUDITY



THE LINE KING: THE AL HIRSCHFELD STORY <

USA 1996, 86 MIN

DIRECTOR: SUSAN WARMS DRYFOOS

► FRIDAY APRIL 23 • 4 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE

This delightful, Oscar®-nominated documentary is a rich and loving portrait of the remarkable Al Hirschfeld—best known for his caricatures of show-biz personalities (most notably of the Broadway stage) that graced the arts section of the New York Times for decades. Produced when Hirschfeld was a vibrant 93 (he died in 2003 at age 99), the film captures his touching relationship with his second wife, Dolly, and his daughter Nina (whose name is cryptically embedded in all of Hirschfeld's drawings), his proficiency in sculpture and lithography, and his travels and interests. Perhaps best of all, the film reveals the true mastery of Hirschfeld's work. His ability to depict the essence of an image in a deceptively simple line profoundly influenced other artists, including cartoonists and animators. Celebrities appearing in the film to pay homage to the legend include Lauren Bacall, Carol Channing, Katherine Hepburn, Jules Feiffer and Colleen Dewhurst.



THE LONERS (HABODEDIM)

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAFI 2009 92 MIN HEBREW, RUSSIAN WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: RENEN SCHORR

► THURSDAY APRIL 22 • 5:30 PM • BLOOR CINEMA

► SATURDAY APRIL 24 • 9:15 PM • SHEPPARD CENTRE

The Loners tells of two Russian-speaking immigrants serving in the army who desire to assimilate into Israeli society. Through events they could not have foreseen, they are accused of treason; although innocent, their demand for a retrial falls on deaf ears. Increasingly desperate as they lose their freedom and dignity in prison, they attempt one last-ditch effort to be heard. The Loners was inspired by true events that took place in a military prison in northern Israel. As with his landmark Israeli film, Late Summer Blues (1987), director Renen Schorr has again created a stirring portrait of alienated youth trying to be heard in a country where they feel silenced. The Loners is the new long-awaited feature by Schorr, who has influenced a whole generation of young Israeli filmmakers through the world-renowned Sam Spiegel Film School in Jerusalem, which he founded and has headed for over 20 years.



THE MAD PLAYBOY OF ART



WORK-IN-PROGRESS

USA 2010 90 MIN

DIRECTOR: GARY VANDENBERGH

► SUNDAY APRIL 25 • 6:15 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE

Will Elder, born Wolf William Eisenberg in the Bronx in 1921, was a comic book artist who perhaps best epitomized the essence of the legendary Mad Magazine's zany humour and irreverent parody and satire. Filmmaker Gary VandenBergh (who also happens to be Elder's son-in-law) brings his exciting documentary-in-progress to the TJFF, with an entertaining look at the man, his times and his work. Elder was best known for his frenzied and painstaking method of filling every inch of the page with hilarious things going on in the background—the "incidentals," described lovingly by Elder's colleagues as "chicken fat." The preview includes terrific interviews with Mad editor Harvey Kurtzman, Jerry Garcia, Terry Gilliam, writer/cartoonist Al Jaffee and others who comment on Elder's incredible talent and influence, as well as his work on humour magazines Mad, Trump and Humbug, and the Little Annie Fanny comic strips in Playboy.

GUESTS: DIRECTOR GARY VANDENBERGH, NANCY ELDER VANDENBERGH (WILL ELDER'S DAUGHTER)



MENSCH

CANADIAN PREMIERE
FRANCE 2009, 87 MIN
FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTOR: STEVE SUISSA
CAST: NICOLAS CAZALÉ, SAMI FREY, ANTHONY DELON,
MAURICE BÉNICHOU

► SUNDAY APRIL 18 • 1:15 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE

Now in his 30s, Sam is an excellent safecracker; he feels it is the only career for which he is suited. He tries to balance this life with the demands of his family: a young son who he is raising alone, a girlfriend who is wary of the potential dangers of Sam's profession and a grandfather who strongly urges him to get into the family food business. When he agrees to join the powerful local crime boss in a large jewel heist, he risks the collapse of his two worlds. Compelling and at times very suspenseful, while offering an intriguing character study and an exploration of family relations, *Mensch* follows in the tradition of some of the best caper films.



MRS. MOSKOWITZ & THE CATS

TORONTO PREMIERE ISRAEL 2009, 83 MIN HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: JORGE GURVICH

CAST: RITA ZOHAR, MONI MOSHONOV, TIKI DAYAN, SHULAMIT ADAR

- ► TUESDAY APRIL 20 3:15 PM BLOOR CINEMA
- ► WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 6:15 PM SHEPPARD CENTRE

Yolanda, a retired French teacher, wakes up in the geriatric ward of a hospital; she has a titanium plate in her hip that confines her to a wheelchair and she faces a lengthy convalescence among people she feels are different from her. Eventually she discovers a new life and new friends, especially Shaul, a former soccer player who knows enough French to flirt with her. Like a young woman in love, she starts smiling, paying attention to the clothes she wears, putting on makeup—doing anything she can to captivate this charming man. When she is forced to return to her home, and her previous solitary life of French TV and cats in heat, a knock on her door changes her life

WEEKDAY MATINEES PRESENTED BY

TORONTO STAR (



NOODLE

ISRAEL 2007, 90 MIN
HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTOR: AYELET MENAHEMI
CAST: MILI AVITAL, BAO QI CHEN, ALON ABUTBUL
► MONDAY APRIL 19 • 6 PM • RICHMOND HILL

Israeli film star Mili Avital is Miri, whose Chinese domestic disappears while on an outing, leaving her young son waiting for her in Miri's house, abandoned. After an extensive search, Miri discovers that the woman has been apprehended and deported to Beijing because of illegal documentation. Determined to reunite mother and son, Miri devises an ingenious plan that takes advantage of her position as a flight attendant with EI-AI, which just happens to fly to Beijing. A TJFF hit back in honour of our 18th birthday, *Noodle* is a heartwarming and beautiful film with a stunning performance by the actor who plays the little boy!



NORA'S WILL (CINCO DIAS SIN NORA)

TORONTO PREMIERE
MEXICO 2008, 92 MIN
SPANISH WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTOR: MARIANA CHENILLO
CAST: ENRIQUE ARREOLA, ARI BRICKMAN,
JUAN CARLOS COLOMBO, MARINA DE TAVIRA

- ► MONDAY APRIL 19 1 PM BLOOR CINEMA
- ► TUESDAY APRIL 20 6 PM RICHMOND HILL

This story begins when José finds that Nora, from whom he has been divorced for many years, has committed suicide. Nora's suicide is not surprising—according to her ex-husband, Nora had attempted this 14 times before. The rabbi tells José that because of the Passover holiday, if Nora is not buried that same day, they would have to wait five days for the funeral to be held. Before she took her life, Nora had made preparations for the Passover seder and had connived to assure herself that José would take care of the funeral arrangements. Nora's preparations and José's determination not to follow orders lead to some amusing incidents as the film takes on an increasingly farcical atmosphere.

WEEKDAY MATINEES PRESENTED BY

TORONTO STAR (

CO-PRESENTED WITH





OFF AND RUNNING

TORONTO PREMIERE USA 2009, 76 MIN DIRECTOR: NICOLE OPPER

► SUNDAY APRIL 18 • 11 AM • BLOOR CINEMA

Avery, a young African-American girl, is living with two white Jewish lesbians for parents and two adopted brothers of mixed race. She has grown up in this unique and loving household, but when her curiosity about her roots starts bothering her, she decides to contact her birth mother. As she questions her own race and identity, she begins staying away from home, skipping school and risks losing her shot at a college athletic scholarship. This documentary follows Avery through the most difficult period of her life and the choices she makes, exploring the strength of family bonds and the lengths people must go to find themselves.



OH, WHAT A MESS (SO EIN SCHLAMASSEL)

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE GERMANY 2009, 88 MIN GERMAN WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: DIRK REGEL

CAST: NATALIA AVELON, JOHANNES ZIRNER, MARIELLA AHRENS

- ► WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 5:45 PM BLOOR CINEMA
- ► THURSDAY APRIL 22 4:30 PM SHEPPARD CENTRE

In this charming German comedy, 30-something Jil thinks she has met the man of her dreams, a Christian landscape architect, who she fears will not be accepted by her strict Jewish family. The couple decides to fool the family by pretending he is Jewish. How long can they keep this up? "As a Jewish girl growing up in Germany," explains producer Alice Brauner, "the few Jewish boys you get to know in kindergarten are like your cousins or brothers, so how can you fall in love with a Jewish man?" *Oh, What a Mess* offers a refreshing portrait of contemporary Jewish life in Berlin and the distinctive forms that culture clash and intermarriage take there.



PAINT WHAT YOU REMEMBER

CANADIAN PREMIERE POLAND 2009, 30 MIN ENGLISH, POLISH WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: SLAWOMIR GRUNBERG

► TUESDAY APRIL 20 • NOON • AL GREEN THEATRE

Mayer Kirshenblatt left his hometown of Opatow, Poland, in 1934 at the age of 17 and emigrated to Toronto. In 1990, at the urging of his daughter and his wife, he took up painting and completed more than 300 paintings before his passing in late 2009. His paintings provide an insight into the world Kirshenblatt left behind, a world that no longer exists. He painted what he remembered: the streets, the buildings and the people of his hometown. This film follows him on a journey back to Opatow and shows off the vibrant colours and bold canvases he created. It also shows him around his new hometown of Toronto and tells of his life over the past few decades.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING SHORT FILMS

BENEATH THE EYE OF TIME

CANADA 2010, 3 MIN DIRECTOR: MADI PILLER

Paint-on-glass animation brings to life a traditional Passover song from the Haggadah.

PAINTING DADDY

CANADA 2009, 7 MIN DIRECTOR: ASTRA BURKA

A filmmaker's affectionate and heartwarming look at her father's career as a painter.

GUESTS INVITED

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY ELEANOR DOVER



PAUL BUHLE TALK— "JEWS AND COMIC ART" FREE!

90 MIN

► SUNDAY APRIL 18 • 11 AM • AL GREEN THEATRE

The connections between Jews and comic art on the printed page and on screen (film, TV and computer) offer one of the most enigmatic and valuable sagas in all Jewish/popular cultural life. Before Jewish artists and entrepreneurs created the comic book and the archetypal superhero, Rube Goldberg and Milt Gross invented wildly imaginary machines and the first graphic novel. More important, the Fleischer brothers as much as invented animation, with Betty Boop's syncopated madness. For 30 years, movie cartoons filled theatre screens between features, and as they crashed, William M. Gaines (EC Comics) and Harvey Kurtzman (Mad Magazine) reinvented comic art once more. And that was only the beginning! Comics scholar Paul Buhle opens up the TJFF's exploration and celebration of this field with film clips and observations, high points, disappointments and, increasingly, Jewish self-identification.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY



THE PEOPLE V. LEO FRANK

USA 2009, 86 MIN

DIRECTOR: BEN LOETERMAN

► TUESDAY APRIL 20 • 5:30 PM • BLOOR CINEMA

The events leading up to the 1913 lynching of Leo Frank, an American Jew wrongfully accused of murdering a young girl who worked in his factory, are faithfully recreated in this fascinating documentary. Dramatic sequences, taken from transcripts, documents and letters, help to make the film both a first-rate murder mystery and a thought-provoking look at racial and religious prejudice in the early-20th-century American South. Ben Loeterman's film offers a wealth of rare archival images and new interviews with historians, politicians and the descendants of the participants, infusing these nearly century-old events with a special resonance for today.

GUEST: DIRECTOR BEN LOETERMAN
GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY MEL & RENEE STEIN & FAMILY



PROTECTOR (PROTEKTOR)

CZECH REPUBLIC 2009, 98 MIN CZECH, GERMAN WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: MAREK NAJBRT CAST: MAREK DANIEL, JANA PLODKOVÁ, JIŘI ORNEST. SIMON SCHWARZ

► THURSDAY APRIL 22 • 5:30 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE

German-occupied Prague in the late 1930s. Emil, a radio host, is obsessively in love with his wife, Hana, a Jewish screen actress. To protect her from the fate of the Jews around them, he agrees to become the official radio voice of the Nazi Party. But Emil's success as a collaborator threatens to destroy the very thing he's trying to protect. Provocative, stylish and sexy, *Protector* is a visually stunning psychological thriller that evokes '30s and '40s film noir. "We have seen our share of dramas about Germans, Jews and collaborators over the last six and a half decades," declared the Jerusalem Jewish Film Festival, "but director Marek Najbrt's film maintains sophistication and originality."

WARNING: NUDITY

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING SHORT FILM

SO SOON FORGOTTEN

CANADA 2009, 15 MIN DIRECTOR: ZACH BERNBAUM

True story of Otto Teibeth, a Polish Jew who posed as a Nazi and rescued a train full of Jews being deported to a concentration camp.



RE-BIRTH (REVIVRE) (2 PARTS)

CANADIAN PREMIERE
FRANCE 2009, 135 MIN/PART
FRENCH, HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTOR: HAIM BOUZAGLO
CAST: CLEMENT SIBONY, REYMONDE AMSELLEM,
BERNARD CAMPAN, NADIA FARÈS, GRÉGORY FITOUSSI

► PART 1: MONDAY APRIL 19 • 9:15 PM • SHEPPARD CENTRE
WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 • 8:30 PM • RICHMOND HILL

► PART 2: TUESDAY APRIL 20 • 9 PM • SHEPPARD CENTRE THURSDAY APRIL 22 • 8:30 PM • RICHMOND HILL

The years between World War II and the Declaration of the State of Israel witnessed a battle of wills between the Jewish community in Palestine, who were working to bring Jewish refugees into Palestine, and the British rulers, who sought to prevent Jewish immigration. The *Exodus* was the most famous example of this battle on the high seas, but other boats attempted to break through the British blockade as well. This is the story of one of those boats and the people who boarded it in hopes of reaching their Promised Land. The refugees were a mixture of European (Ashkenazi) Holocaust survivors and North Africans (Sephardim) leaving their native Arab lands to make a new home for themselves in a Jewish country. This Frenchmade television miniseries shows the difficulties these people suffered to make their dreams come true.

PART 1 PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING SHORT FILM

SUMMER CAMP

ISRAEL 2009, 6 MIN
DIRECTORS: MOR ELNEKAVE, TOMER KOHN

The story of a man looking for his lover after the war, told through vintage photos shot by a fugitive at the illegal immigrant camp in Cyprus during the British Mandate period.

GUEST: DIRECTOR HAIM BOUZAGLO

SAYED KASHUA: FOREVER SCARED

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2009, 56 MIN HEBREW, ARABIC WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: DORIT ZIMBALIST

► FRIDAY APRIL 23 • NOON • AL GREEN THEATRE

Sayed Kashua feels he doesn't belong anywhere. Many Jews don't like him because he's an Arab; many Arabs don't like him because he's successful and they consider him a collaborator. As a result, he is always scared. Kashua writes a regular column in Hebrew for *Ha'aretz*, one of the largest daily newspapers in Israel, about the experience of an Israeli Arab living in a Jewish society. He often pokes fun at the problems he encounters as a member of a minority within the Jewish state. This documentary shows his daily life, his family and his work on the popular Israeli television series he writes, *Arab Labor*.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING SHORT FILM

ARAB LABOR: INDEPENDENCE DAY

ISRAEL 2007, 30 MIN DIRECTOR: RONI NINIO

Written by Sayed Kashua, this Israeli TV series centres on a young Arab family living on the outskirts of Jerusalem. In this episode, the couple is in the running when a million shekels is offered to the first baby born on the country's 60th birthday.



SEVEN MINUTES IN HEAVEN (SHEVA DAKOT BE'GAN EDEN)

TORONTO PREMIERE
ISRAEL/FRANCE/HUNGARY 2009, 94 MIN
HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTOR: OMRI GIVON
CAST: REYMONDE AMSELLEM, ELDAD PRIVES,
NADAV NATES, RONIT YUDKEVITCH

- ► MONDAY APRIL 19 5:45 PM BLOOR CINEMA
- ► TUESDAY APRIL 20 6:45 PM SHEPPARD CENTRE

Galia (stunningly played by Reymonde Amsellem of *Three Mothers*), a young woman from Jerusalem, cannot recall the terrorist bombing that left her boyfriend in a coma and herself with severe burns and significant memory loss. As people and objects begin to resurface from that fateful day—a necklace, a handsome stranger named Boaz (Eldad Prives)—Galia begins piecing together the events in the form of flashbacks and hallucinations that send her back to that traumatic incident. All of this culminates in an unforgettable final act that will stay with you long after the movie ends. *Seven Minutes in Heaven* transcends the sensationalism one associates with a film about a suicide bombing, and becomes a mesmerizing and complex character study that probes the deeper themes of memory and identity.



SIMON KONIANSKI

BELGIUM/FRANCE/CANADA 2009, 97 MIN FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: MICHA WALD CAST: JONATHAN ZACCAÏ, POPECK, ABRAHAM LEBER, IRÈNE HERZ. NASSIM BEN ABDELOUMEN

- ► SATURDAY APRIL 24 9:15 PM AL GREEN THEATRE
- ► SUNDAY APRIL 25 3:30 PM SHEPPARD CENTRE

Simon Konianski is a 35-year-old, overeducated and underemployed *schlimazel*. After his non-Jewish girlfriend dumps him for a fellow dancer, Simon is forced to move back in with his father, who gleefully takes out his disappointments on his good-for-nothing son. When his father passes away, Simon endeavours to fulfill his burial wishes and, with the help of his paranoid uncle, a meddling aunt and his kidnapped son, ventures across Europe with the dead body and its living ghost in tow. This absurdly epic journey causes Simon to confront the culture and history he's been so desperately trying to shed. Filmmaker Micha Wald has managed to render a poignant and ludicrously hilarious tale of a post-Holocaust, post-modern Europe.

WARNING: NUDITY

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING SHORT FILM

(ROCK THE) BELZ

CANADA 2009, 5 MIN DIRECTOR: KAVEH NABATIAN

Featuring the music of Socalled, Theodore Bikel and Sans Pression, this whimsical and bittersweet short mixes a traditional Yiddish ballad with rap and puppetry.

GUEST INVITED



ULTIMATUM

CANADIAN PREMIERE
FRANCE/ISRAEL/ITALY 2009, 102 MIN
FRENCH, HEBREW, ITALIAN WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTOR: ALAIN TASMA
CAST: GASPARD ULLIEL, JASMINE TRINCA,
ANNA GALIENA, SARAH ADLER

- ► THURSDAY APRIL 22 3:15 PM BLOOR CINEMA
- ► SUNDAY APRIL 25 1 PM RICHMOND HILL

In his intense, original feature film *Ultimatum*, Alain Tasma convincingly depicts what it was like for young people to live in fear of chemical weapons during the 1990–91 Persian Gulf War. The story follows two French expats and their small group of friends living in Israel, movingly revealing how war strips people of their pretenses and leaves them in their most raw and vulnerable state. Adapted from Gallic author Valerie Zenatti's 2006 novel, *Ultimatum* shows the human side of the war that news footage missed. The film also boasts a supporting cast of Israeli film stars, including Sarah Adler (*Jellyfish*, TJFF 2008), Hanna Laszlo (*Shiva*, TJFF 2009) and Lior Ashkenazi (*Late Marriage*, TJFF 2002).

WEEKDAY MATINEES PRESENTED BY

TORONTO STAR

VICTORIA DAY

CANADA 2009, 82 MIN DIRECTOR: DAVID BEZMOZGIS CAST: MARK RENDALL, HOLLY DEVEAUX, JOHN MAVRO, SCOTT BEAUDIN

► SUNDAY APRIL 18 • 8:30 PM • RICHMOND HILL

Based on a story by David Bezmozgis, this coming-of-age tale is set in the Russian Jewish community of Toronto. On Victoria Day weekend in the late 1980s, a group of Russian kids go to a Bob Dylan concert at Ontario Place. When one boy fails to return home, members of the community join in the search for him. Meanwhile, life goes on as the entire nation is focused on Wayne Gretzky and the Edmonton Oilers' playoff run, in this honest film that is simple and universal.

GUEST: DIRECTOR DAVID BEZMOZGIS



WHAT IF? THE HELENE MAYER STORY

CANADIAN PREMIERE RUSSIA/GERMANY/USA 2008, 48 MIN DIRECTOR: SEMYON PINKHASOY

WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 • 3:30 PM • BLOOR CINEMA

Helene Mayer was the best female fencer in the world; at 18, she was the first woman to win the gold medal for Germany in the 1928 Olympics. But in the early 1930s, Mayer moved to the U.S. after she was kicked out of a German fencing club for being half-Jewish. When the 1936 Olympics came to Berlin, the International Olympic Committee pressured Germany not to discriminate against Jewish athletes. Germany invited Helene Mayer back to represent them in the 1936 Olympics to appease the IOC, and she agreed. Many believe this gesture helped to whitewash the Nazi racial policies of the time. A great companion to *Berlin'36*.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING FILM

NOT IDLY BY: PETER BERGSON, AMERICA AND THE HOLOCAUST

CANADIAN PREMIERE USA 2009, 40 MIN DIRECTOR: PIERRE SAUVAGE

Peter Bergson was raised in Palestine as Hillel Kook, and came to the U.S. in 1940 as an activist in the Irgun, committed to exposing the growing evidence of the Nazis' destruction of European Jewry and trying to energize Western countries to open their gates to refugees. American Jewish leaders responded with inaction.

GUEST: DIRECTOR SEMYON PINKHASOY
WEEKDAY MATINEES PRESENTED BY

TORONTO STAR



WHERE I STAND: THE HANK GREENSPUN STORY

CANADIAN PREMIERE
USA 2008, 98 MIN
DIRECTOR: SCOTT GOLDSTEIN

► SUNDAY APRIL 18 • 3:15 PM • BLOOR CINEMA

Depending on where you stand, Hank Greenspun was a convicted gun runner, a Las Vegas visionary, a crusading newspaper publisher, the target of the Watergate burglars or a hero of Israel's War of Independence. He lived a remarkable life. At various times, Greenspun worked for gangster Bugsy Siegel, took on Sen. Joseph McCarthy and even fought with the American IRS. No enemy was too big or too powerful for Greenspun, and this documentary—made up of old newsreels, photos, animation and current interviews with family and friends—gives us all the heroic moments of Greenspun's career as well as all of his flaws. If you've never heard of Hank Greenspun, here is your opportunity to meet one of the most interesting and intriguing characters of the 20th century.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING SHORT FILM

TEN FOR GRANDPA

CANADA 2009, 8 MIN DIRECTOR: DOUG KARR

A young man poses 10 questions to his dead grandfather—husband, father, White House reporter, film producer, defence contractor, businessman ... Soviet agent?

GUEST INVITED

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE LEONARD WOLINSKY FOUNDATION



WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT 🥌



USA 1988, 104 MIN DIRECTOR: ROBERT ZEMECKIS CAST: BOB HOSKINS, CHRISTOPHER LLOYD, JOANNA CASSIDY, CHARLES FLEISCHER, STUBBY KAYE, KATHLEEN TURNER (UNCREDITED)

► MONDAY APRIL 19 • 5:30 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE

"There are many ways in which this film is a pivotal Hollywood phenomenon both of great importance and of a distinctly Jewish character. American animation, at its peak during the 1940s, had all but disappeared into children-related television until Roger Rabbit brought adult audiences into the theatres and, just as important, prompted the referential television comedy of The Simpsons, with huge effect on comedy at large. Roger Rabbit is an 'inside Hollywood' story revisiting 1940s noir themes of the Blacklist era in satirical form. The 'toons' are ordinary studio workers, the kind who belong to unions and ride the streetcar lines about to be put out of business. New bosses in town employ thugs to get rid of anyone in their way, and we know who the victors and victims are. Eddie can't save the Red Car trolleys, but he helps the toons, fools the weasels and saves the dame. He could be the John Garfield who survived to tell the tale."

-Paul Buhle

GUEST: AUTHOR PAUL BUHLE

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY



WILL EISNER: PORTRAIT OF A SEQUENTIAL ARTIST

USA 2007 96 MIN DIRECTOR: ANDREW D. COOKE

► WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 • 8:30 PM • AL GREEN THEATRE

Named "the most influential comic artist of all time" by Wizard magazine, Will Eisner transformed the "funny papers" by creating a new form of art—the graphic novel. Part of an extraordinary group of Jewish cartoonists of the time, as well as a successful entrepreneur, Eisner was perhaps the most highly regarded internationally. The Spirit, an urban crime-fighter series based on Eisner's Jewish upbringing in the tenements of New York, was a realistic portrayal of life on the streets, filled with subtle humour. Other Eisner works that dealt overtly with Jewish themes include A Contract with God, The Plot, Fagin the Jew and Family Business. Eisner's life, work and times are brought wonderfully to life in this film, which includes interviews with Michael Chabon, Jules Feiffer. Neil Gaiman, Art Spiegelman, Frank Miller and others. A TJFF reprise screening.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING SHORT FILM

MUNRO

USA 1960, 9 MIN DIRECTOR: GENE DEITCH

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

GUEST INVITED

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY



WILLIAM KUNSTLER: DISTURBING THE UNIVERSE

USA 2009, 85 MIN
DIRECTOR: EMILY KUNSTLER, SARAH KUNSTLER
► SUNDAY APRIL 25 • 3:30 PM • BLOOR CINEMA

William Kunstler was a radical American civil rights lawyer who took on some of the most controversial cases of the 20th century, defending such renowned figures as the Chicago 8, Martin Luther King, the Attica inmates and even the head of the terrorist group responsible for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. "I suspect that more people have gone to their deaths through a legal system," said Kunstler talking to a crowd during the Chicago 8 trial, "than through all the illegalities in the history of man." This powerful documentary was made by Kunstler's daughters in an effort to understand their father and the reasons behind his choices. William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe is an honest piece of work about a person with the courage of his convictions.

GUEST INVITED

CO-PRESENTED WITH





THE WOLBERG FAMILY (LA FAMILLE WOLBERG)

CANADIAN PREMIERE
FRANCE 2009, 80 MIN
FRENCH WITH SUBTITLES
DIRECTOR: AXELLE ROPERT
CAST: FRANÇOIS DAMIENS, VALÉRIE BENGUIGUI,
VALENTIN VIGOURT, LÉOPOLDINE SERRE

- ► TUESDAY APRIL 20 1 PM BLOOR CINEMA
- ► THURSDAY APRIL 22 6 PM RICHMOND HILL

Simon Wolberg (François Damiens) is the mayor of a small French provincial town. He is madly in love with his wife and a prying father to his young daughter and son. Driven by his obsession with his family, Simon self-destructively tests these bonds. "What is a family man?" asked first-time feature director Axelle Ropert. "How can a man and a woman stay together for years? How can you let your children go and how can you leave your father and mother?" A highlight of last year's Directors' Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival, *The Wolberg Family* is a sensitive family drama that features rich, nuanced performances and a bittersweet R&B score to highlight the fragility of family.

WEEKDAY MATINEES PRESENTED BY

TORONTO STAR (



THE WORST COMPANY IN THE WORLD

CANADIAN PREMIERE ISRAEL 2009, 50 MIN HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: REGEV CONTES

► MONDAY APRIL 19 • 4:30 PM • SHEPPARD CENTRE

What a story—a unique group of men trying to run an insurance company. The only trouble is that they are complete and utter failures in their venture. But they have a lot of fun and have made the company their excuse for getting together and enjoying each other's company. Director Regev Contes attempts to help his father's company from going belly-up, but in the end, friendship and family ties turn out to be more important than profits, and the company staggers along in its own merry way.

PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING SHORT FILM

GEFILTE FISH

ISRAEL 2008, 10 MIN HEBREW WITH SUBTITLES DIRECTOR: SHELLY KLING-YOSEF

A bride-to-be is supposed to prepare gefilte fish for the wedding party, but is torn between her family and her sympathy for the carp she has to kill.

18TH ANNUAL TORONTO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

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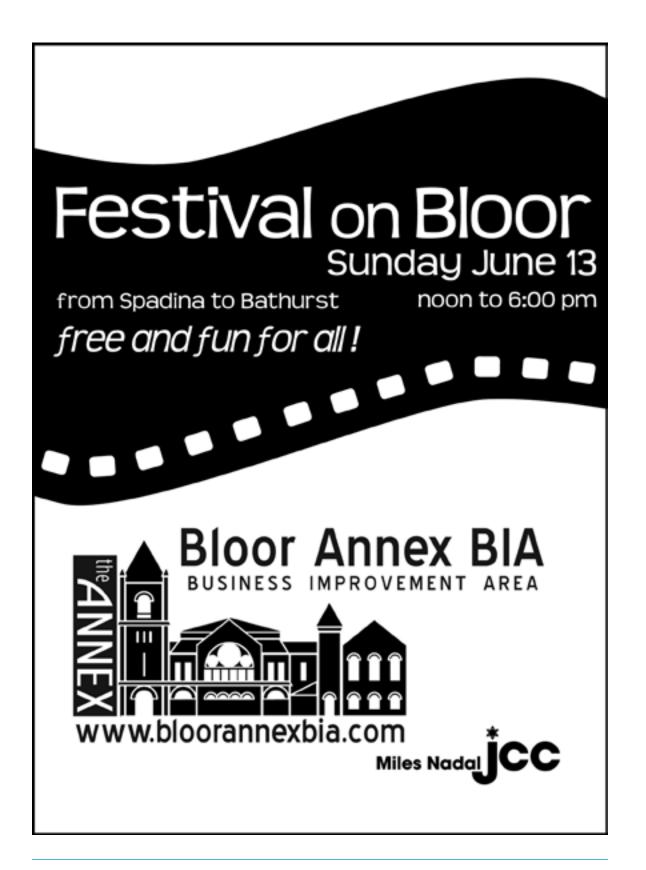
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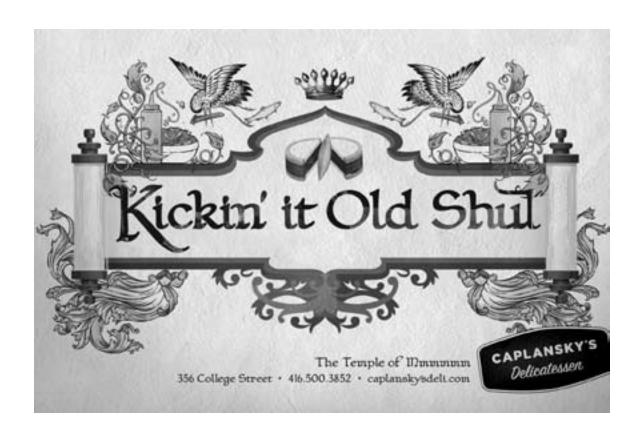
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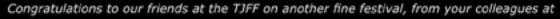
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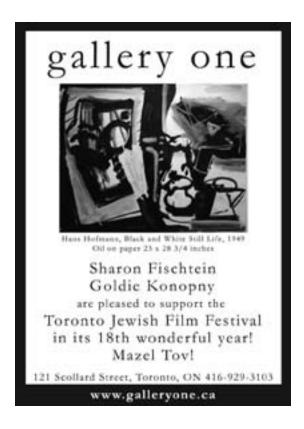
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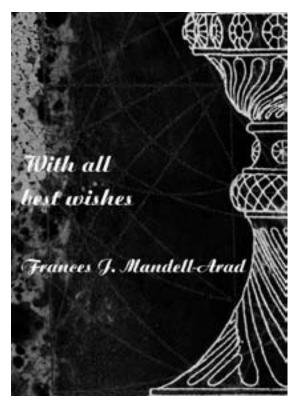


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17	Balancing Acts:	45	Munro 🗷 short
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