

CHAI LIGHTS

IN-PERSON SPECIAL EVENTS



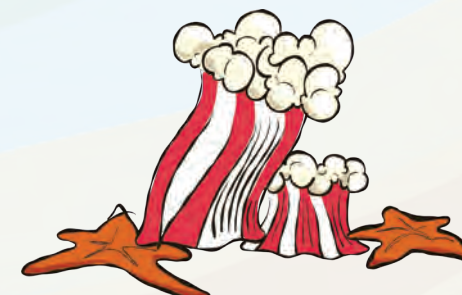
SEATTLE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

MARCH 22–APRIL 6, 2025

Like a pearl formed through resilience and transformation, the Seattle Jewish Film Festival has spent 30 years illuminating powerful stories that shine through history's darkest moments and celebrate the triumphs of Jewish life, culture, and cinema.

As the Pacific Northwest's largest and longest-running Jewish event, SJFF showcases 30 films for our 30th anniversary: a diverse mix of award-winning and independent global cinema that celebrates and amplifies Jewish life, identity, history, and culture for everyone.

More than a film festival, SJFF is a community gathering place—fostering conversation, connection, and understanding across backgrounds. From uplifting comedies and gripping dramas to thought-provoking documentaries and shorts, it serves as a vibrant cultural cornerstone, deepening Jewish connections for all.



ANNOUNCING THE SJFF ARCHIVE
 Launching opening night, view 30 years of SJFF history: posters, programs, trailers, film details, award winners, and more!

Opening Night Film + Festivities
MIDAS MAN
 Sat March 22 | 7 pm doors + 8 pm film @ AMC Pacific Place
 Step back in time to witness the electric rise and fall of Brian Epstein, the visionary who catapulted the Beatles to meteoric fame and unleashed a cultural revolution. Stay after the film for a '60s hits DJ, dancing + dessert party. Grab a drink at the AMC bar.

Sunday Brunch + Film
WELCOME TO YIDDISHLAND
 Sun March 23 | 9:30 am brunch + 10:30 am film @ AMC Pacific Place
 Enjoy a delicious spread of homemade Jewish comfort food, local bagels with fixings and shmear, fruit and desserts, plus coffee and tea while listening to the KlezKatz before this rousing story of the Yiddish language's revival by contemporary artists from around the world, including Seattle.

Closing Night Film + Filmmaker Reception
BAD SHABBOS
 Sat April 5 | 7:30 pm @ the J
 Join us for an end-of-Shabbat havdalah champagne toast + cheesecake reception after enjoying this darkly hilarious, highly entertaining screwball comedy starring Kyra Sedgwick as the charming but neurotic matriarch whose Shabbat family dinner goes horribly and hilariously wrong. Director Daniel Robbins in attendance.

Closing Day Mishpokhe Matinee + Sing-Along
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF
 Sun April 6 | 3 pm @ the J
 Get your babushkas on and singing voices ready! Join us for the return of SJFF's classic closing film tradition. Sing along to musical favorites such as "Tradition" and "If I Were a Rich Man." Costume prizes and noshes of bubbe's blintzes and borscht. All ages welcome. Bring the whole mishpokhe (family)! Discount price for kids.

SEATTLEJFF.ORG
 BOXOFFICE@SJCC.ORG

STROUM JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF GREATER SEATTLE
 3801 East Mercer Way
 Mercer Island WA 98040
 SJCC.org | SeattleJFF.org

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Buy Passes + Tickets at SEATTLEJFF.ORG



FULL PASS: Single admission to in-person + virtual films and special events. NEW: extended streaming access.

8-PACK: Pick eight in-person or virtual films. Max two tickets per showtime—bring a friend!

SINGLE FILM + SPECIAL EVENT TICKETS

Discounts for seniors 65+, students, youth under 13. Check SeattleJFF.org for prices, venues, and Box Office policies. All events are subject to change.

FOLLOW US SeattleJFF @SJCC.arts @StroumJCC

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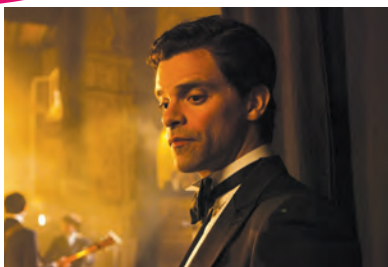
LOEB FAMILY CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS DEBORAH + DOUG ROSEN SEATTLEJFF.ORG STROUM JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

IN-PERSON FILMS + EVENTS

Sat March 22 @ AMC Pacific Place

Opening Night Film + Festivities MIDAS MAN

8 pm
Witness the electric rise and fall of Brian Epstein, the visionary who catapulted the Beatles to meteoric fame and unleashed a cultural revolution. MIDAS MAN stars Jacob Fortune-Lloyd with cameos by Emily Watson, Jay Leno + Eddie Izzard.



Sun March 23 @ AMC Pacific Place

Sunday Brunch + Film WELCOME TO YIDDISHLAND: A PLACE WITH NO BORDERS

9:30 am brunch + 10:30 am film
Welcome to the rousing story of the revival of the Yiddish language by contemporary artists from around the world who are reigniting this dying mother tongue in music, theater, opera, and literature.
GUEST: The KlezKatz



Sephardic Spotlight THE BLOND BOY FROM THE CASBAH

(Le Petit blond de la casbah)
1:10 pm
Passionate filmmaker Antoine travels to his birthplace with his young son to present his latest release: an account of his bittersweet Jewish childhood in Algeria.
EVENT: Sephardic coffee chat (echar lashon) + biscochos



ART SPIEGELMAN: DISASTER IS MY MUSE

4:15 pm
A vividly illustrated film exploring the unwavering wit and insights of cartoonist Art Spiegelman, best known for Maus, his groundbreaking, Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel about his Holocaust-survivor parents.



Gay Gezunt! LGBTQ+ Spotlight PINK LADY (אישה ורודה)

6:45 pm
In an ultra-Orthodox Jewish community in Jerusalem, Bati has a seemingly perfect life. But her world starts to crumble when she discovers her husband's secret affair with his male study partner.



Tues March 25 @ SIFF Uptown

THE MOST PRECIOUS OF CARGOES

(La Plus précieuse des marchandises)
6:20 pm
A poor Polish woodcutter's wife defiantly pledges to raise a Jewish child thrown from a passing train in this visually stunning animated gem about love triumphing over hate from the Academy Award-winning director of THE ARTIST.



THE CITY (העיר הזו)

8:30 pm
Joe, a private detective, takes on the case of a mysterious cabaret singer—a decision that could be his last—in this wildly inventive hip-hop, film noir opera and homage to crime fiction and Israeli rap.



Wed March 26 @ the J

JANIS IAN: BREAKING SILENCE

6:20 pm
The epic life journey of illustrious singer-songwriter Janice Ian ("Society's Child," "At Seventeen") from her Jewish childhood on a New Jersey chicken farm through six decades as a disruptive voice for social justice in the music industry.



Israeli Spotlight

THE STRONGHOLD (המחנה)

8:45 pm
Sinai, 1973: Michael Aloni ("Shtisel") stars in this heart-pounding portrayal of a remote Israeli army outpost on the Suez Canal under fire during the Yom Kippur War, inspired by films like SAVING PRIVATE RYAN.



Thurs March 27 @ the J

TORN

6 pm
The controversy surrounding the "Kidnapped from Israel" grassroots poster campaign sparks clashes in the streets of New York City, far from the actual conflict.
GUEST: Director Nim Shapira



A NICE JEWISH BOY (Le Dernier des juifs)

8:30 pm
In this quirky, light-hearted, coming-of-age comedy, nerdy Bellisha makes up wild stories to placate his beloved mother and hide the truth about rising antisemitism in their working-class Paris suburb.



Fri March 28 @ the J

Friday Matinee @ the J SHARI & LAMB CHOP

1 pm
Hailing from a Jewish Bronx family, groundbreaking artist Shari Lewis and her beloved sock puppet companion, Lamb Chop, were adored showbiz stars of childhood entertainment for over 50 years.
GUEST: Director Lisa D'Apolito
EVENT: Coffee, tea + noshes; \$10 for ages 65+



Sat March 29 @ the J

THE GLORY OF LIFE (Die Herrlichkeit des Lebens)

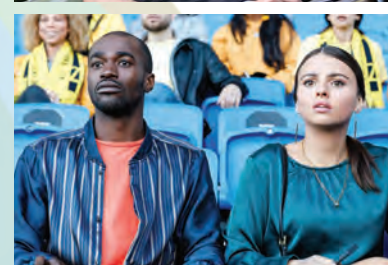
6 pm
The exquisite love story of legendary Czech novelist Franz Kafka and Dora Diamant, a Polish Jewish woman, in the last year of his life.



Israeli Spotlight

RUNNING ON SAND (לוחה לע זורל)

8:35 pm
A young Eritrean refugee facing deportation is mistaken for a professional soccer player brought to save a floundering Israeli team and plays along.



Sun March 30 @ the J

CARLA THE RESCUER

12:10 pm
A local hero! Carla Peperzak, now age 101, was a teenager in the Dutch resistance during WWII and helped dozens of Jews by forging ID cards. Four generations of women in her Spokane family tell her story.
GUESTS: Intro: Carla Peperzak; director Clement Lye, producer Kristine F. Hoover + Holocaust educator Paul Regelbrugge



BEETHOVEN'S NINE: ODE TO HUMANITY

3:15 pm
Can a work of art remain relevant 200 years after its creation? Delve into the enduring legacy of Beethoven's masterpiece "Ode to Joy" and its unbreakable connection with recent global events, from the war in Ukraine to the Oct. 7 tragedy in Israel.
GUEST: Director Larry Weinstein



Gay Gezunt! LGBTQ+ Spotlight SABBATH QUEEN

6:30 pm
The 21-year epic journey of Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie, the dynastic heir of 39 generations of Orthodox rabbis, who is torn between accepting his ancestral destiny or becoming a drag queen rebel.
GUEST: Director Sandi DuBowski
EVENT: Filmmaker reception



Wed April 2 @ Majestic Bay Theatres

BLIND AT HEART (Die Mittagsfrau)

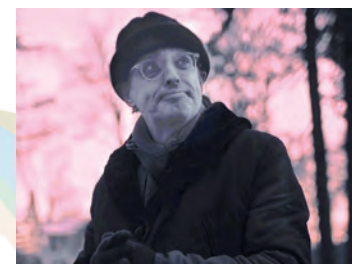
7 pm
Adapted from a bestselling novel, this powerful romantic drama vividly portrays the moral struggles and gripping journey of a young medic hiding her Jewish identity in Weimar-era Berlin.



Wed April 2 in Walla Walla
Thurs April 3 @ Hillel UW

Shorts Program HASHIVENU: RETURN US

Curated by Warren Etheredge
7 pm
When people speak of grit, they usually mean the power of perseverance. With these seven films, we explore a divine form of resilience, hashivenu—reaffirming of faith in times of grief or crisis.



Sat April 5 @ the J

Closing Night Film BAD SHABBOS

7:30 pm
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GUEST: Director Daniel Robbins
EVENT: Filmmaker reception



Sun April 6 @ the J

Closing Matinee + Sing-Along FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

3 pm
Join us for the return of SJFF's classic closing film tradition—with costume prizes and noshes, and sing along to musical favorites such as "Tradition" and "If I Were a Rich Man." All ages welcome. Bring the whole mishpokhe (family)!
EVENT: Noshes of bubbe's blintzes and borscht



VIRTUAL FILMS

Enjoy SJFF at home! Twelve feature films available online March 31–April 13, plus these two virtual-only films.

DEATH OF ZYGIELBOJM (Śmierć Zygielbojma)

Warsaw, May 1943: A journalist investigates the suspicious death of an exiled Polish politician and Jewish leader.



NEVER ALONE (Ei koskaan yksin)

Helsinki, 1942: A powerful, poignant historical drama about a Finnish-Jewish businessman who risks everything to protect Jewish refugees and stand up for humanity.



Get our complete virtual schedule at SeattleJFF.org.



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