



American Jewish Committee Proudly Presents
SEATTLE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
13TH ANNUAL BAR MITZVAH BASH

APRIL 3-13, 2008 • CINERAMA • MOHAI



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Catherine Mayer





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2008 Seattle Jewish Film Festival Program

Appearance by Geva Alon

Orthodox Stance
Director Jason Hutt

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Appearance by Judy Gold



Appearance
by Filmmaker
Eyal Halfon

A Bar Mitzvah Speech

from the 2008 Festival Co-chairs and Director

We've all heard that self-mocking joke that sums up the absurd way Jews commemorate our history of affliction: "We came, we suffered, we ate!" To further test fate, our make-lemonade-out-of-lemons ancestors also demonstrated a fondness for the number 13. While elevator operators and triskaidephobics (those who fear 13) approach this number with auspicious trepidation, we choose instead to celebrate, even dwell upon 13, making a downright fuss over the 13th birthday.

Even the Seattle International Film Festival skipped its 13th anniversary. In stark contrast, the 2008 Seattle Jewish Film Festival proudly hypes our Bar Mitzvah year. Actually, in Jewish tradition, the number 13 is neither bad nor unlucky. Rather, the numeric value of 13's two digits signify *ahava* (love) and *echad* (oneness). Combined, the number 13 marks the age of both religious and communal responsibility. And it is from this place of love and a desire to unite our vibrant community that American Jewish Committee proudly presents the 13th Annual "Bar Mitzvah Bash" Seattle Jewish Film Festival. Welcome!

Annually, SJFF strives to enlighten, edify and entertain our loyal audiences. This festive year, we also expect you to rejoice, crack up and tear up, boogie, wine and dine, and rejoice some more. To mark this celebratory milestone, we've pulled out all the stops—an ambitious effort to engage *all* your senses (as any self-respecting Bar Mitzvah bash should). The result is more cultural festival than film festival.

"Start with a bar and end with a *mitzvah* (good deed)" is our 2008 tag-line because we kick-off Opening Night with a Cocktail Party hosted by Tom Douglas and end with the do-a-mitzvah, feel-good movie *Noodle*. In-between there are theme parties, new special events, innovative programming, celebrity and musical performances, an exhibit, loads of guest artists and arguably the best lineup of award-winning Israeli films in our adolescent history.

That said, this year's Bar Mitzvah theme is more than just fun and flourishes. It highlights a more substantive programmatic goal: the commemoration of Israel@60. Nearly half of our films this year are from Israel, and many spotlight its coming-of-age and rites of passage. The struggles of youth serve as grand metaphors for Israel's growing pains as a country founded on formative ideologies and striving towards peaceful democracy. The documentary and feature films *Children of the Sun*, *The Galilee Eskimos* and *Sweet Mud* all beautifully ponder and reflect on Israel's origin story in the kibbutz movement both past and present. The April 6th panel "Kibbutzim Dream" further explores these themes. We are proud to premiere the much-ballyhooed Oscar nominee *Beaufort* and Cannes winner *Jellyfish*, art-films to the core. These touted films represent the successful maturation and growing impact of Israel's film industry in the global marketplace of ideas—the subject of another panel "60 Years of Israeli Film" on Saturday, April 12th with Israeli director Eyal Halfon (*What a Wonderful Place*, SJFF 2007).

Beyond film, SJFF's Israel@60 programming branches out with a free slide show featuring 60 years of historic photos of Israel by the legendary Magnum photographer Burt Glinn on Tuesday, April 8th and a not-to-be-missed musical performance by the indie folk rocker Geva Alon on Thursday, April 10th. Throughout our festival, we celebrate the old and new faces of Israel@60—today's "Israelity."

Many a Bar/Bat Mitzvah speech has begun with solemn words of dignified affirmation and humbled reverence. So, on the occasion of American Jewish Committee's 13th Annual 2008 Seattle Jewish Film Festival, we humbly thank the hard-working AJC staff, board and festival committee, our devoted patrons and generous sponsors, dedicated intern and volunteers, and our supportive community as SJFF fully embraces the responsibilities and duties associated with growing up and being so fortunate to reach 13.

With love and unity,

Pamela Lavitt
Festival Director

Michele Tesler
Festival Co-Chair

Marilyn Weissman
Festival Co-Chair

SJFF 2008 Committee Members: Tamar Benzikry-Stern, David Brumer, Shelley Dillon, Michael Levin, Marilyn Meyer, Rose Rosenwach, Pam Rosenstein, Shelly Shapiro and Mindy Stern.



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www.seattlejewishfilmfestival.org



Reel Goals:

AJC PRESENTS OUR PREMIERE PROGRAM

by Rabbi Anson Laytner

AJC has been called “the state department of the Jewish people”—so what’s AJC doing presenting the Seattle Jewish Film Festival (SJFF)?

Although not as prominent a goal as strengthening pluralism, combating anti-Semitism, supporting Israel and world Jewry, one part of AJC’s mission is to strengthen Jewish life by improving the quality of Jewish life and ensuring Jewish continuity. AJC even has a department devoted to the numerous challenging ways this issue manifests itself, including assimilation, religious polarization, Jewish cultural illiteracy and non-affiliation, family life, identity, intermarriage, and Israel-Diaspora relations.

And with what is our Seattle Jewish Film Festival concerned if not all of the above?

Speaking personally as both the Executive Director of the Greater Seattle Chapter and a rabbi, I see cinema addressing the concerns of our people in ways that lectures and panels never can. Cinema is visual, it is emotive and

visceral—it is an art form. Cinema touches us on so many levels—and this is why it is such an effective vehicle for AJC to show the world and the human experience “through a Jewish lens,” our festival’s tag-line.

SJFF is our Seattle Chapter’s premiere program but not its only one. Besides the Film Festival, we focus our energies in several areas: Israel Advocacy, International Affairs & World Jewry, Energy Independence, and Improving Human Relations. We present annually the Max Block Student Human Relations Awards, which provide scholarships to high school students for outstanding community-relations work, and FilmTalks, a daylong diversity and tolerance-training program for high schoolers. We have our China initiative and we meet with regional consuls to discuss issues of concern. We had a great Hanukkah celebration event with the Seattle Consular

Association and the Israeli Consul General. With several local Christian denominations, we launched an interfaith effort called “Investing for Peace in the Holy Land,” and we partner with some local environmental groups to advocate legislation in support of transportation alternatives that both reduce greenhouse gases and promote energy independence from foreign oil.

The Greater Seattle Chapter of the American Jewish Committee is the Seattle Jewish Film Festival and so much more. We invite your participation and your support.

*Rabbi Anson Laytner is Executive Director of the Greater Seattle Chapter of AJC, author of *Arguing with God and The Animals’ Lawsuit Against Humanity*. As a volunteer, he serves as President of the Sino-Judaic Institute.*

AJC WANTS TO REEL YOU IN

AJC welcomes your involvement and participation in all our upcoming events and programs.

May 2nd, 2008: Shemanski FilmTalks Program at MOHAI, 8 am to 2 pm. We are showing 2006 Academy Award nominee *Sophie Scholl: The Last Days*, about the German student resistance to Hitler. Facilitators and other volunteers are needed to staff this wonderful and uplifting daylong event for high school students.

May 28th, 2008: AJC Salutes at Bell Harbor. Join four outstanding high school students, their families and AJC members as we present scholarships to the finalists in the Max Block Student Human Relations Awards. We also salute the late Dr. Ho Fang Shan, the Chinese diplomat in World War II Vienna who saved hundreds

of Jews by giving them visas for Shanghai. His daughter will talk about her father’s inspiring life and work.

December 3rd, 2008: Celebrate in style as our Chapter presents the first **Distinguished Leadership Award** to Deborah Rosen. Rabbi David Rosen, no relation to our honoree, is the keynote speaker. A former Chief Rabbi of Ireland, he now lives in Israel and serves as AJC’s International Director of Interreligious Affairs.

For more information, please contact us at seattle@ajc.org, 206.622.6315 or visit our Web site: www.ajcseattle.org.



Reel Passions

by Moshe Dunie, AJC President



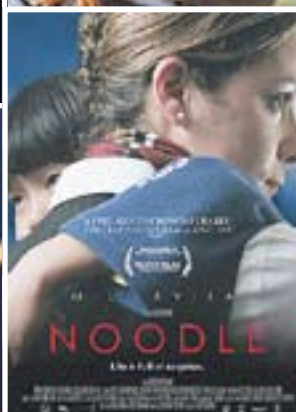
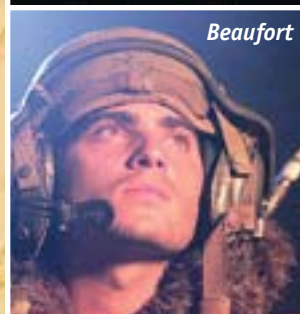
It is my passion for movies that attracted me initially to the American Jewish Committee. Having served as SJFF co-chair for several years, I have been gratified to see the phenomenal way the film festival has enriched our Jewish life while building bridges of better understanding with our community at large.

It has also been exciting to see the new wave of high-quality films made in Israel in recent years. I will highlight here just a few. In 2005, the thrilling and thought-provoking *Walk on Water* was sold out. That same year at our festival, *Or*, which won the Cannes Film Festival 2004 Golden Camera award, was a difficult yet excellent and bold film. *Campfire*, which won the 2004 Best Film Award of the Israeli Film Academy, combined an insightful look at the settlement movement with a powerful coming of age drama. *Turn Left at the End of the World* made us laugh in a packed 5th Avenue Theatre closing night. Last year, the highly intriguing *Frozen Days* done on a shoestring budget about the psychological aftermath of a suicide bombing. And *Live and Become* was a mesmerizing and uplifting Opening Night Film in 2006.

But life can be more even more engaging than cinema... As the president of the Greater Seattle Chapter AJC since July 2006, I worked with my board and the chapter staff, led by Executive Director Rabbi Anson Laytner, to advance key AJC areas of focus:

- Combating anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry
- Promoting pluralism and shared democratic values
- Supporting Israel's quest for peace and security
- Advocating for energy independence
- Strengthening Jewish life

AJC plays an active role in public affairs and human rights issues around the globe. Colin Powell said, "Next to the US government, AJC meets and interacts with the largest number of diplomats in the world." Just in recent months, our local leaders have visited Israel, Egypt, Germany, Turkey, Italy, Jordan and China pursuing AJC international affairs.



A couple of special recent local activities that I would like to highlight are:

- Holding our second consecutive successful Human Relations Award event, reflecting AJC's major focus on human relations as a prime humanitarian organization
- Initiating an international affairs program with a focus on building a special relationship with China.

For more details about our local activities, please read Rabbi Anson Laytner's article.

We are delighted to celebrate with you on the occasion of our 13th "Bar Mitzvah" year, as well as the "Israel at 60" milestone. With your generous support and participation, we have built our Film Festival into the largest Jewish event in the Pacific Northwest and a Film Festival that is second only to SIFF in size and international scope. SJFF has been showing high quality films from around the world that both entertain and educate about contemporary Jewish life, Jewish history, anti-Semitism, the situation in Israel and the challenges brought about by the conflict there.

I encourage you to see many of the excellent films this year. Again I can only highlight a few here. Cannes Film Festival 2007 Golden Camera

winner *Jellyfish* (Meduzot) is a major artistic achievement. *Beaufort* is a masterpiece anti-war movie. It was one of 5 finalists for Best Foreign Film at the 2008 Oscars. The alarming documentary *Ever Again* will be followed by a panel discussing the new threatening face of anti-Semitism today, especially in Europe. And certainly don't miss our wonderful and redeeming Closing Night Film *Noodle*. It is a "must see." Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Moshe Dunie

President of the Greater Seattle Chapter AJC
National AJC Board of Governors

Moshe Dunie was elected president of the Greater Seattle Chapter of American Jewish Committee in June 2006, and is a member of AJC's Board of Governors (BOG) and the Technion BOG. Moshe has held various leadership roles in the high-tech sector. The highlight being his role as Microsoft Vice President of the Windows Division, in charge of the development of Windows products that have empowered millions of people around the world. Moshe retired from Microsoft in October 1999.



Israeli Cinema:

STATE OF BEING by Tamar Akov

"And the winner is..."

The past few years have seen an amazing surge in the placement of these four words before the titles of numerous Israeli films in some of the world's most prestigious film festivals.

Just this last February, at the 2008 Berlin International film festival, no less than 5 Israeli films were screened, two winning major prizes. The Sundance Film Festival presented 5 Israeli films this year as well. And of course, let us not forget Joseph Cedar's *Beaufort*, a nominee for the foreign language category of this year's Academy Awards.

Israeli cinema continues to excite, move and draw the attention of audiences around the world. 2007 was a record year in terms of the number of people around the world who came to see Israeli films—many millions of viewers. 2007 was also a record year in terms of box-office admissions and revenues. This great achievement extends both globally and locally, and while for years Israelis shied away from local films, now they are flocking to cinemas, proud of what Israeli films have to offer.

Israeli Filmmakers who bring their stories and visions of Israel to the screen have developed a distinct and unique voice in recent years, and their artistic expressions and cinematic stylings sport a character and identity all their own.

In the past, Israeli film has dealt mostly with bigger themes of social and national scope, focusing on the political and the historical. In the past ten years, however, their focus has shifted. Filmmakers have started veering away from these bigger issues and portraying more universal stories about individuals and the family unit.

It is this universal nature of Israeli situations depicted in the movies that may be reason why Israeli film is gaining so much popularity around the world, screened commercially and in international and Jewish film festivals like the Seattle Jewish Film Festival.

Nonetheless, the political and social situation in Israel can never truly be avoided or overlooked, as it is too integral a part of the Israeli lifestyle and psyche. Everyday, Israelis try to come to terms with these two spheres, and that

is why these films represent such an accurate portrayal of Israeli reality.

The best films are those that can reconcile both the collective and the private, and appeal to the human being in all of us, even when addressing a subject foreign to most viewers. *Beaufort* is one such example. Though the setting of the movie is almost surreal, it is the soldiers' friendships, weaknesses and humanity that strike a chord in every heart, no matter where that heart resides.

Beaufort, as well as all of the other fantastic Israeli films that will be screened at this film festival, succeed in capturing the essence of the Israeli experience and its relevance to the global community.

I would therefore like to congratulate everyone who helped make the Seattle Jewish Film Festival a leading festival of high quality, featuring Israel's award-winning films. We, at the Consulate General of Israel

are honored to play a part in this special event. Thank you for including us in your "Bar Mitzvah year" Festival, and may you grow and blossom. We are thrilled to celebrate Israel's 60th anniversary with you through an exposition of Israeli culture.

Tamar Akov, a graphic artist and industrial designer by training, serves as Cultural Attaché at the Consulate General of Israel in San Francisco. A native Israeli, Tamar served in the Israel Defense Forces as a radio producer and director for Galei Tzahal (Army Radio). She is married to [Consul General] David Akov and they have three children—Shira, Ido and Eliya.

SJFF NOTE: We thank Tamar and David Akov for their sustained support of our AJC Chapter and Seattle Jewish Film Festival. We sadly say goodbye and good luck to them as their tenure in the U.S. soon ends and they continue their important work back in Israel.



Beaufort

ISRAELI@60
PROGRAMMING
AT SJFF 2008

AWARD-WINNING ISRAELI FILMS

Aviva, My Love ■ Saturday, April 5th ■
9:30 PM ■ Cinerama

Winner of 6 Israeli Academy Awards

Beaufort ■ Thursday, April 10th ■
7:00/9:30 PM ■ MOHAI

2008 Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Language Film ■ 2007 Berlinale Silver Bear for Best Director

Jellyfish ■ Saturday, April 12th ■
9:30 PM ■ MOHAI ■ 2007 Cannes Film Festival's prestigious Camera d'Or for Best First Feature ■ Based on the writing of Israeli popular author Etgar Keret

Someone to Run With ■ Saturday, April 12th ■ 7:00 PM ■ MOHAI ■
2006 Miami International Film Festival Grand Jury Prize winner ■ Based on the best-selling novel by David Grossman

Sweet Mud ■ Saturday, April 5th ■
9:30 PM ■ Cinerama ■ 2006 Israeli Academy Best Film Award ■ 2007 Sundance Dramatic World Cinema Jury Award ■ 2007 Berlinale Crystal Bear for Best Feature Film

ISRAELI@60
MORE
PROGRAM
DETAILS ON
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B'nai Mitzvah, Seattle Style

by Leyna Krow

The rite of coming of age comes with its own Northwest flavor.

Seattle is not New York. On this point, very few people would argue. Here on the West Coast, we dress differently, eat differently, and even speak differently than our counterparts back east. So it's no surprise that when it comes to a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, Seattleites have their own ways of celebrating, from the food, to the after-party, to even the location of the service.

Take, for example, the recent Bar Mitzvah of Max Westerman. Through a stroke of luck, the Westermans were able to arrange for their son to have the first and last Bar Mitzvah ever to be held at the Islandwood environmental retreat on Bainbridge Island.

Aside from its taking place at a not only picturesque, but also environmentally friendly location, Max's father, Martin Westerman, said the true beauty of the event was that it occurred entirely at one location from start to finish.

"We strongly suggest finding a venue where you can be for the entire weekend, which takes care of those concerns Jews all harbor: Shomer Shabbat, elderly guests, kosher food and kids activities," Westerman said. "It consolidates the costs and takes away a lot of headaches."

Of course, most kids (or, perhaps budding adults may be more appropriate) in the Seattle area seem to be sticking with the time-honored tradi-



Dani Weiss Photography

SJFF poster boy, Evan Futran celebrates at the Washington Athletic Club following his Bar Mitzvah.

tion of becoming B'nai Mitzvah in the synagogue.

That doesn't mean, however, that their parties are always of the standard, country-club variety.

Dani Weiss, who has photographed well over 100 B'nai Mitzvah in the Seattle area in her 18 years as a professional events photographer, said that she's attended Bar and Bat Mitzvah parties at a number of Seattle's landmark locations, including the Museum of Flight and the Seattle Aquarium.

"Because the weather is so inconsistent, people make safer choices than they would otherwise," Weiss noted, saying that indoor destinations are the norm. She was quick to point out that just because everyone is inside doesn't mean that the ceremonies in rainy Seattle lack charm. Along with time to look at the sea life, parties at the aquarium

include dancing in the underwater dome.

With Seattle's proximity to water, it's not surprising that boat-bound B'nai Mitzvah parties are a standard as well. Pete Robinson, sales manager for Argosy Cruises, said his company does a number of post-B'nai Mitzvah gatherings of various sizes each year. Argosy offers boat tours around Elliott Bay, Lake Union and Lake Washington and is particularly popular with B'nai Mitzvah groups who have a lot of out-of-town guests.

"They're always a huge hit," Robinson said. "We love having all ages on the boats and we haven't lost any kids overboard yet."

Of course, those 12- and 13-year-olds who come of age in the winter months may want nothing more than a sunny day for the occasion. Hence, the growing popularity of destination B'nai Mitzvah. A number of organizations give families the opportunity for a child to become Bar or Bat Mitzvah in Israel (such as the aptly named group, "Bar Mitzvah in Israel").

Some families, however, simply pick their favorite warm spot and head there. Westerman noted that, since his family will most likely be unable to repeat the Islandwood experience for his younger son, Adam, the boy may very well celebrate his Bar Mitzvah (although still several years off) in the Virgin Islands.

—Excerpted from *JTNews*, 2/08/08

Leyna Krow is the Assistant Editor of *JTNews*

MISHPOKHEH MOVIES SJFF'S COMING-OF-AGE & FAMILY-FRIENDLY FILMS

See page 15 for film details



Opening Night ■ Sixty-Six ■
all ages



**Matzoh Momma Sunday
Brunch Film ■ Max Minsky
and Me ■** age 9+



Praying With Lior ■ all ages



Children of the Sun ■ age 8+



The First Basket ■ all ages



Love & Dance ■ age 12+



Last Jews of Libya ■ all ages



The Galilee Eskimos ■ age 10+



Closing Night ■ Noodle ■ age 9+

Sarah Greenhall's
Bat Mitzvah at
Temple De Hirsch
Sinai, Bellevue,
October 2007



Dani Weiss Photography

**DON'T MISS OUR MOHAI EXHIBIT:
COMING-OF-AGE IN SEATTLE**
about the Pacific NW Bar/Bat Mitzvah
Brought to you by SJFF, Washington State
Jewish Historical Society and MOHAI
In MOHAI's Knight Gallery in April.
FREE with SJFF or MOHAI admission.



SINCE 1906 AJC has been a diplomatic voice for the Jewish people, working to strengthen the basic principles of democracy and pluralism around the world as the best defense

against anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry, thereby safeguarding the welfare and security of Jews in the United States, in Israel, and throughout the world.

Major Program Departments

With headquarters in New York and a governmental affairs office in Washington D.C., AJC maintains over 15 institutes and centers focusing on international, interfaith and interethnic relations.

AJC Chapters

32 professionally-staffed offices in major American cities.

AJC Overseas Offices

8 offices: in Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Jerusalem, Mumbai, Paris, and Warsaw.

AJC Overseas Affiliates

13 affiliates: in Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Mexico, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela, and European Council of Jewish Communities.

AJC's Greater Seattle Chapter offers many opportunities to get involved:

Seattle Jewish Film Festival is the primary program of the Greater Seattle chapter and a celebrated part of the great cultural mosaic of our community.

Outreach to the Consuls and Ambassadors is a fundamental way for us to introduce consuls to the local Jewish community and its perspectives on key issues, and for us to learn their perspectives on issues as well.

Max H. Block Student Human Relations Awards have been presented since 1959 to deserving Seattle-area high school juniors and seniors who demonstrate exemplary human relations in their schools or communities. Finalists are given scholarships for higher education.

FILMTalks uses the medium of film as a launch pad for discussion and exploration by high school students into the sensitive topics of racism and prejudice.

AJC Human Relations Award is presented annually to a corporation or individual for outstanding contributions to the well-being and improvement of our community-at-large.

Speakers/Lectures/Special Programs are an essential means to educate our members and the community about the complexities of contemporary issues.





REMEMBRANCE: NO ANTIDOTE TO ANTI-SEMITISM

by **Kenneth S. Stern**



Neo-Nazi rally scene from the film *Ever Again*.

Holocaust Remembrance Day [is] observed in many parts of the world on January 27, thanks to a landmark 2005 United Nations General Assembly Resolution designating that day. One might say “It’s about time,” as it took sixty years for the UN to memorialize the Holocaust. Or, “perfect timing,” given Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s ongoing public denial of the Holocaust, which is not unrelated to his desires to obtain nuclear arms and wipe Israel off the map.

Remembrance of the Holocaust is important for many reasons, from recalling the enormity of the tragedy which befell European Jewry to reminding us all how easily the human capacity for hatred can be harnessed into genocide. But as we recall the horrors inflicted by the Nazis, we must not delude ourselves. Neither Holocaust remembrance, nor Holocaust education, should be considered an antidote to contemporary anti-Semitism.

...Some commentators have pointed to teaching about the Holocaust as an answer for this type of anti-Semitism. But the medieval charge that Jews poisoned wells was not a debate over water quality; it was a libel asserting that Jews were conspiring to harm non-Jews, and gave an explanation for troubling events. Likewise, Holocaust denial is not about the Holocaust. It is about Jews, charging them with making up the Shoah as part of a conspiracy to harm non-Jews, and, in Ahmadinejad’s view, harming Palestinians in particular.

...True, knowing about the Holocaust is critically important as a key event in twentieth century history that offers many important lessons. But it is dangerous to suggest that Holocaust education is “a,” or as some do “the,” tool to combat anti-Semitism. Consider the U.S. State Department’s treatment of Sweden in its Report on Global Anti-Semitism. It noted a dramatic increase in anti-Semitic hate crimes and the perception of the Jewish community that these incidents were linked to immigrant populations, leftists and events in the Middle East. Yet the report observed approvingly that “the Government took steps to combat anti-Semitism by increasing awareness of Nazi crimes and the Holocaust.” Not only is the intellectual disconnect troubling, but such a stance allows governments that do not want to deal sufficiently with the sources of contemporary anti-Semitism too easy a way out.

There are many things that can and are being done to combat today’s hatred of Jews. Human rights organizations must be challenged when they do not sufficiently assert that freedom from anti-Semitism is a human right. Governments must be engaged to insure that they investigate and prosecute anti-Semitic hate crimes fully. Monitoring groups must catalogue not only the old-fashioned forms of religious and racial anti-Semitism, but also the more contemporary forms which treat the Jewish state in the same bigoted manner that traditional anti-Semitism regards the individual Jew. Campus administrations need to uphold the highest academic standards and make certain that while heated debate is encouraged, intimidation is prohibited.

These and other steps, including education-based programs, can help in the fight against anti-Semitism. But they must all be guided by testable theories and available facts to demonstrate how and why they are likely to work. In the next generation the Jewish community in the United States and in Europe will be shrinking, both in real numbers and proportionally, and resources they can draw upon to combat anti-Semitism will also likely diminish. We can no longer afford to rely on presumptions, past practices or wishful thinking.

—Excerpted from JTA essay, 1/22/07

Kenneth S. Stern is American Jewish Committee’s expert on anti-Semitism, and author of the newly released *Anti-Semitism Today: How It Is the Same, How It Is Different, and How to Fight It*.



FILMS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM & THE HOLOCAUST

Refusenik ■ Wednesday, April 9th ■
6:00 PM ■ MOHAI

I Have Never Forgotten You ■
Wednesday, April 9th ■ 8:45 PM ■
MOHAI

Free Land w/Pigeon (short) ■
Thursday, April 10th ■ 5:00 PM ■
MOHAI

Ever Again and AJC Presidential Panel:
“Anti-Semitism Today” ■ Sunday,
April 13th ■ 11:00 AM ■ Cinerama
The Last Jews of Libya ■ Sunday,
April 13th ■ 12:45 PM ■ Cinerama



Refusenik director Laura Bialis will attend the film’s North American premiere at SJFF.

AJC FilmTalks Program will
show the film *Sophie Scholl* on
Yom Hashoah, May 2.
To volunteer: seattle@ajc.org



Simon Wiesenthal, the subject of the film, *I Have Never Forgotten You*, plays April 9th at MOHAI.

The SJFF 2008 film *I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal* begs the question: Is focus on and study of the Holocaust still relevant in 2008? Do people still want to read books, see movies and listen to Holocaust survivors? Do teachers still want or need to include these issues in their curricula? Two local students certainly think so:

"I have learned to stand up for the people who need me." —Student, Juanita High School

NEVER FORGETTING: THE LEGACY OF SIMON WIESENTHAL

"I was reminded of the importance of respecting each other." —Student, Kentridge High School

While Simon Wiesenthal is known for his courageous and persistent efforts in bringing Nazi war criminals to justice, the establishment of the Center in Los Angeles that bears his name has had a far-reaching effect in the way several generations of students now view the issues of the Holocaust.

The study of the Holocaust has become a lens through which learners, of diverse backgrounds can examine the many issues of human rights. It challenges students to think critically and examine ethical decision-making. By studying the historical development of the Holocaust, students at the Wiesenthal Center or here in the Northwest can make connections between history and moral choices they face in their own

lives. Study of modern genocide has brought the Holocaust back into classrooms as teachers confront issues of social and political responsibility, justice, and on an individual level—the difference that just one person can make.

This brings us back to Simon Wiesenthal, his incredible journey of one person, and the success of the documentary, *I Have Never Forgotten You*. In our local area, the **Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center**, community partners for this film, has seen an increased demand for Holocaust education, teacher training programs, and speakers. Resources are provided for students, teachers, community group, and learners of all ages to support the study of the Holocaust. As teachers request speakers, trunks and other resources for their classrooms, they hope their students will be inspired to change the world; viewing this documentary may help them do it.



Senator Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson with former Soviet refuseniks.

The international movement to free Soviet Jewry is a dramatic story with remarkable Seattle connections. Senator Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson took on this cause, speaking up nationally on the issue, battling the White House, and ultimately persuading 75 of his fellow senators to sign the famous Jackson-Vanik Amendment which helped hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews leave the USSR and emigrate to Israel and the U.S. Sen. Jackson's role is featured in this remarkable film.

Seattle played a significant role in the struggle, starting in 1974 with the founding of Seattle Action for Soviet Jewry, where passionate Seattle activists such as Judy Balint (who is interviewed in

SEATTLE ACTIVISM: REFUSENIK FEATURES LOCAL CONNECTIONS

the film *Refusenik*) and AJC Executive Director Anson Laytner took part in demonstrations to raise awareness in this community.

Seattle Action Network raised the profile of Soviet Jewry by protesting delegations of Soviet cultural, sports or business visitors to our region. They also sent Seattle emissaries to visit refuseniks in the USSR and hosted dozens of former refuseniks and prisoners of Zion here in Seattle. Today, nearly 30,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union call the Seattle area home.



Seattle-based **Henry M. Jackson Foundation** is to be congratulated for their support of the film *Refusenik*, playing April 9th at MOHAI, followed by a reception. They made major gifts to the filmmakers for this documentary and ensured that participants from Israel to Washington contributed their stories.



Above: Celebrating Natan Sharansky's 30th birthday, Westlake Mall, Jan. 20, 1978. He was finally released in 1986. **At left:** A 1979 rally at Pacific Science Center.

Courtesy Seattle Action for Soviet Jewry

Special Events



Opening Night Party & Film

Bar Mitzvah Bash Cocktail Party hosted by Tom Douglas at the Palace Ballroom, Thursday, April 3rd: 5:30–7:30 PM

Cinerama Festivities: Kick up your heels and dust off your electric slide. SJFF's "Bar Mitzvah Bash" kicks off with a video-DJ, party favors and a centerpiece cake. Arrive early for dancing. Doors open at 7:00 PM

Opening Night Film: *Sixty-Six* Program begins at 8:00 PM

Tickets: \$50 Tom Douglas Cocktail Party & Film. Admission with SJFF Pass Plus and VIP Sponsor Passes. **\$25 Film and Cinerama Festivities.** Film only admission included with all SJFF Passes



Making Modern Jewish History

Family Film installation in MOHAI's McCurdy Gallery

Eighth-graders from The Jewish Day School have documented family stories from South Africa to Shanghai, Galitzia to Greece, Poland to Palestine. "A gorgeous mosaic of the variety and richness of Jewish history and culture today," says their teacher Lois Fein. Be inspired by our young filmmakers and Jewish historians.



CENTERPIECE SCREENING:

Stand-up for Jewish Women

Live comedy performance by Judy Gold

Film: *Making Trouble* followed by a panel with Judy Gold and film producers from the Jewish Women's Archive

Cinerama: Sunday, April 13th: 4:00 pm

Tickets: \$25. Single admission included with all SJFF Passes

Matzoh Momma Sunday Brunch & Film



SUNDAY, APRIL 6, BRUNCH: 10:00 AM

Musical performance by the Jim Mirel Shalom Ensemble

Film: *Max Minsky and Me.* 11:00 AM

Brunch & Film Tickets: \$25 general; \$15 senior 65+/pre-B'nai Mitzvah/student w/ID; \$60 family of 4. One admission with all SJFF Passes, except SJFF Film Only Pass. Doors open 10:00 AM

Film Only Tickets: \$10 general; \$7 senior/youth/student



Closing Night Gala & Film

SUNDAY, APRIL 13: 6:30 PM

Il Fornaio VIP Gala (by invitation only)

Film: *Noodle.* 9:00 PM at Cinerama



Occasionally Yours

Seattle
ISRAEL@60



Kibbutzim Dream

Panel following *Children of the Sun*

A panel about kibbutzim, as movement, life, the children's house and ideology with local kibbutzniks, introduced and moderated by Gad Barzilai, professor of international studies, law and political science at the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington.

CINERAMA: Sunday, April 6th: 3:30 pm

Geva Alon in Concert

An intimate, acoustic performance by Tel Aviv/New York-based musician Geva Alon. His original material—all in English—is an amalgam of blues, folk, rock and country styles, both haunting and brilliant. Critics say he's currently the best guitarist in Israel. Do not miss Geva's Seattle debut at SJFF, so you can say, "I was there when!"

CDs will be sold at the show.

MOHAI: Thursday, April 10th:
9:00–11:00 pm

Tickets: \$5 students; \$7 general

Meet jew-ish.com in the He'Brew Beer Garden (21 and older, ID required).

Seattle
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TO THE PUBLIC**

Historic Photos

by Legendary Magnum

Photographer

BURT GLINN

SJFF celebrates Israel's birthday with a slide show presentation of historic images from the Magnum Photo archives, conducted by Elena Prohaska Glinn.

MOHAI's McCurdy Gallery:
Tuesday, April 8th: 6:45 pm



Photo credit: Burt Glinn, 1957.
Jerusalem's Main Produce in the Macheneh Yehuda Market
©Burt Glinn/Magnum Photos

Seattle
ISRAEL@60



60 Years of Israeli Film

A Conversation with Eyal Halfon

A retrospective look at Israeli filmmaking over the years with one of Israel's premiere filmmakers, Eyal Halfon (*What a Wonderful Place*, SJFF 2007), moderated by Hannah Pressman, Hazel D. Cole Fellow at UW Jewish Studies Program.

MOHAI: Saturday, April 12th: 9:00–9:30 PM
in between the films *Someone to Run With* and *Jellyfish*. Stay or come early.

Festival Schedule at a Glance

VENUE	TIME	SJFF 2008 FILMS & SPECIAL EVENTS	COUNTRY/YEAR	FORMAT	MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 3					
Palace Ballroom	5:30-7:30 PM	<i>Opening Night Bar Mitzvah Bash Cocktail Party hosted by Tom Douglas</i>			
Cinerama	8:00 Program 8:30 Film	<i>Opening Night Film and Festivities</i> (Doors open & video DJ spins at 7:00 PM) SIXTY SIX	UK 2006	35mm	93
SATURDAY, APRIL 5					
Cinerama	7:30 PM	AVIVA, MY LOVE	Israel 2006	35mm	107
Cinerama	9:30 PM	SWEET MUD	Israel 2007	35mm	100
SUNDAY, APRIL 6					
Cinerama	10 AM Brunch 11 AM Film	<i>Matzoh Momma Sunday Brunch w/musical performance by The Jim Mirel Shalom Ensemble</i> MAX MINSKY AND ME	Germany 2007	35mm	94
Cinerama	1:00 PM	PRAYING WITH LIOR	USA 2007	DigiBeta	87
Cinerama	3:30 PM	CHILDREN OF THE SUN	USA/Israel 2007	Beta	70
Cinerama	5:15 PM	THE FIRST BASKET w/Jewish Women in American Sport (short)	USA 2007	DigiBeta/Beta	85/27
Cinerama	7:30 PM	ORTHODOX STANCE w/Naturalized (short)	USA 2007/2006	DigiBeta	82
Cinerama	9:30 PM	MY MEXICAN SHIVA	Mexico/USA 2006	35mm	98
MONDAY, APRIL 7					
MOHAI	6:30 PM	A SLIM PEACE	UK 2007	Beta	59
MOHAI	8:15 PM	CHAMPAGNE SPY	Israel/Germany 2007	DigiBeta	91
TUESDAY, APRIL 8					
MOHAI	6:45 PM	<i>Israel@60: Slide Presentation of Historic Images by Magnum Photographer Burt Glinn</i>			
MOHAI	6:30 PM	LOVE AND DANCE	Germany 2007	35mm	93
MOHAI	8:30 PM	ARRANGED w/888-Go-Kosher (short)	USA 2007	DigiBeta/Beta	89/10
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9					
MOHAI	6:00 PM	REFUSENIK	USA 2007	35mm	112
MOHAI	8:45 PM	I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN YOU	USA 2007	Beta	105
THURSDAY, APRIL 10					
SJCC	12:00 PM	<i>Senior Free Film & \$6 Lunch (Reservations required: 206.232.7115 x 269)</i> KEEPING UP WITH THE STEINS			
			USA 2006	DVD	99
MOHAI	5:00 PM	ZONE LIBRE w/Pigeon (short)	France 2007/Canada 2006	35mm/DigiBeta	104
WSHM	7:00 PM	MY MEXICAN SHIVA (Tacoma screening)	Mexico 2006	DVD	98
MOHAI	7:00 PM	BEAUFORT	Israel 2007	35mm	123
MOHAI	9:00 PM	<i>Israel@60 Rocks! Musical Performance by Geva Alon (indie folk rock)</i>			
MOHAI	9:30 PM	BEAUFORT [2nd screening]	Israel 2007	35mm	104
SATURDAY, APRIL 12					
MOHAI	7:00 PM	SOMEONE TO RUN WITH	Israel 2006	35mm	118
MOHAI	9:30 PM	JELLYFISH w/Shmul'i's Dream (short)	Israel/USA 2007	35mm/Beta	78
SUNDAY, APRIL 13					
Cinerama	11:00 AM	EVER AGAIN	USA 2006	DigiBeta	73
Cinerama	12:45 PM	THE LAST JEWS OF LIBYA	USA 2007	Beta	50
Cinerama	2:00 PM	GALILEE ESKIMOS	Israel 2007	35mm	99
Cinerama	4:00 PM	<i>Centerpiece Event: Stand-Up for Jewish Women with comedienne Judy Gold</i> MAKING TROUBLE	USA 2007	DigiBeta	85
Il Fornaio	6:30-8:30 PM	<i>VIP Closing Night Gala: Il Fornaio (By invitation only)</i>			
Cinerama	7:00 PM	MOM, I DIDN'T KILL YOUR DAUGHTER w/A Trip to Prague (short)	Israel 2007 USA 2005	DigiBeta DigiBeta	53 4
Cinerama	9:00 PM	NOODLE	Israel 2007	35mm	95

April 3-13
2008



SEATTLE JEWISH
FILM
FESTIVAL

Film
Listings

ARRANGED

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 8:30 PM ■ MOHAI
Directors: Diane Crespo and Stefan Schaefer
United States ■ 2007 ■ DigiBeta ■ 89 minutes
English/Hebrew/Arabic



Two young women—one an Orthodox Jew, the other Muslim—meet and become friends as first-year teachers at a public school in Brooklyn. Over the course of the year they learn they share much in common, not least of which is that they are both going through arranged marriages. *Arranged* is based loosely on the experiences of Yuta Silverman, an Orthodox Jewish woman from Borough Park, Brooklyn, NY. The Israeli film *Ushpizin* (SJFF 2005), produced and starring Orthodox filmmakers, gave her the courage and inspiration to try and tell one of her many stories. A lovely, touching and unusual film about friendship and the ties that bind.

Topics: American Jewish Life, Inter-ethnic Dialogue, Women, Orthodox Community, Muslim Community, Arranged Marriages

■ Screens with 888-GO-KOSHER (short)



Community Partner: Congregation Beth Shalom

AVIVA, MY LOVE (*Aviva Ahuvati*)

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 7:30 PM ■ Cinerama
Director: Shemi Zarhin
Israel ■ 2006 ■ 35mm ■ 107 minutes ■ Hebrew



An Israeli commercial and artistic triumph, *Aviva, My Love* is the richly-layered story of a working-class woman desperate to escape her provincial life in the seaside town of Tiberius. Aviva Cohen (Asi Levi) is barely staying afloat. She supports her unemployed husband working as a hotel kitchen cook while caring for rebellious teenage children and an unstable mother. Aviva finds herself on the brink of fulfilling a lifelong ambition to be a writer when she is introduced to a famous novelist by her sister (Rotem Abuhav). In the face of brutal ambition, can Aviva fulfill both her own emotional needs and those of her family, without selling her soul? Winner of six Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Script and Best Director honors for acclaimed filmmaker Shemi Zarhin (*Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi*, SJFF 2003).

Topics: Israel, Relationships, Women

■ Warning: Mature content



Community Partner: American Technion Society NW Chapter



BEAUFORT (2 screenings)

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 7:00 PM and 9:30 PM ■ MOHAI

Director: Joseph Cedar

Israel ■ 2007 ■ 35mm ■ 123 minutes

Hebrew



Special Guest: David Akov, Israel's Consul General to the Pacific Northwest

As Israel prepares to withdraw from Southern Lebanon in 2000, Israeli Defense Force soldiers guard an outpost next to Beaufort Castle, a Crusader fortress. The first Israeli film to explore the painful subject of an 18-year war with Lebanon. Director Joseph Cedar (*Time of Favor*, *Campfire*) won the coveted Silver Bear Award for Best Director at the 2007 Berlinale, and *Beaufort* was a 2008 Oscar contender for Best Foreign Film.

Topics: Arab-Israeli Conflict, Combat/Soldiers, Israel

■ **Warning:** Violence/language

Community Partners: Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, The Pacific Northwest Film Havurah and Young Leadership Division (YLD) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle



CHAMPAGNE SPY (Meragel Ha-Shampaniya)

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 8:15 PM ■ MOHAI

Director: Nadav Schirman

United States ■ 2007 ■ DigiBeta ■ 91 minutes

English/French/German/Hebrew

The terrible personal toll of a life of espionage is the fascinating subject of this film and winner of the 2007 Israeli Academy Award for Best Documentary. During the 1960s, legendary Israeli Mossad agent Wolfgang Lotz (his covert name) left his family behind and went undercover in Cairo to sabotage an Egyptian weapons program. Posing as an ex-Nazi playboy, Lotz increasingly grew consumed with his bogus identity and alter ego. After 40 years of silence, his son discusses the childhood burden being the son of a real-life James Bond. A rare and riveting glimpse into the dark side of real-life cloak-and-dagger spy games.

Topics: Biography, Israel, Personal Story



Co-sponsored by SIFF

CHILDREN OF THE SUN

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 3:30 PM ■ Cinerama

Director: Ran Tal

Israel ■ 2007 ■ Beta ■ 70 minutes ■ Hebrew



Israel@60 Panel: "Kibbutzim Dream" with local kibbutzniks Michael Benzikry and Boaz Pnini, moderated by Professor Gad Barzilai (UW)

Children of the first kibbutzim in Israel were born in the early 20th century to youthful parents, full of hope. They have been called "Children of the Sun," because they were considered children of the "Sun of Nations" Revolution in Israel. Born into a utopia, they were destined to become "new citizens" for the common good and life of equality. *Children of the Sun* features rare footage shot at the kibbutzim between 1930 and 1970, and rare recordings and conversations with family and friends. Director Ran Tal weaves an amazing tapestry that is both a very personal and very public story—a meta-narrative about the fascinating and founding myths of the Zionist movement in the Land of Israel.

Topics: Zionism, Kibbutz Movement, Israeli History, Personal Narrative



888-GO-KOSHER (short)

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 8:30 PM ■ MOHAI

Director: Lauren Shweider Biel

United States ■ 2007 ■ Beta ■ 10 minutes
English



A day in the life of New York City's only rapid-response kitchen koshering service, 1-888-GO-KOSHER. Follow Rabbi Sholtiel Lebovic as he helps clients go kosher from scratch and in a jiffy. Their tag-line: "Koshering America's Kitchens, one at a time."

■ Screens with ARRANGED



Community Partner: Congregation Beth Shalom

EVER AGAIN

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 11:00 AM ■ Cinerama

Director: Richard Trank

United States ■ 2006 ■ 35mm ■ 73 minutes

Narrated by Kevin Costner



AJC President's Panel on Anti-Semitism today

Ever Again, produced by Moriah Films at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, examines the resurgence of violent anti-Semitism and terrorism that threatens Europe and Western civilization. It exposes the dangerous Islamic extremism and culture of death being preached from the mosques of Europe's major cities and its impact on the recent attacks in Madrid and London. *Ever Again* examines the new neo-Nazism in Germany and the shifts from the traditional anti-Semitism of the right to the anti-Semitism of the extreme left, and it raises disturbing questions about our future.

Topics: Anti-Semitism, Eastern European Jewry, History, Holocaust, Human Rights, International Jewry, Arab-Israeli Conflict, Justice, Middle East, Politics, Terrorism, Western European Jewry, World War II



Community Partners: Seattle Hebrew Academy and Stand With Us/Northwest

THE FIRST BASKET

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 5:15 PM ■ Cinerama

Director: David Vyorst

United States ■ 2007 ■ DigiBeta ■ 86 minutes

English



Is basketball the ultimate Jewish sport? The owners and managers certainly were. But what about the players and promoters? According to this documentary, it seems everybody was Jewish! The first NBA points were scored by guess who?—Jewish power-forward Ossie Schectman on November 1, 1946, as the New York Knicks beat the Toronto Huskies. This great film brings back all the names you remember and observes the role sports played in weaving the immigrant experience into the fabric of American life as we know it. Who knew (*ver veyz*)?

Topics: Basketball, Jews in Sports, Immigration, American Jewish Life, NYC/Lower East Side History, Archival Footage

■ Screens with JEWISH WOMEN IN AMERICAN SPORTS (short)





FREE LAND (*Zone Libre*)

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 5:00 PM ■ MOHAI

Director: Christophe Malavoy

France ■ 2007 ■ 35mm ■ 104 minutes

French/Yiddish



Brimming with warmth and humor and richly photographed, *Free Land* is a delightful and distinctly French film about Jewish Partisans seeking refuge in the countryside during World War II. Pursued by advancing German forces, an extended family flees Nazi-occupied France and crosses the demarcation line into the “zone libre,” or free zone, where they arrive at the farm of a peasant and patriot who shelters them in a barn. The ragtag group includes a very pregnant sister-in-law and the matriarch who only speaks Yiddish. *Free Land* is a film about cultural clashes, courage and cowardice. It will transport you from laughter to tears. Based on the play by Jean-Claude Grumberg.

Topics: Holocaust, Partisans, France, WWII, Family Relationships

Community Partner: Music of Remembrance



THE GALILEE ESKIMOS (*Eskimosimba Galil*)

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2:00 PM ■ Cinerama

Director: Jonathan Paz

Israel ■ 2007 ■ 35mm ■ 95 minutes

Hebrew



A satisfying mix of sheer entertainment and bittersweet commentary, *The Galilee Eskimos* follows the misadventures of a band of senior citizens as they fight to save their debt-ridden kibbutz. One morning, the elders awake to find they have been abandoned by the younger generation. Forced to fend for themselves and fend off bailiffs and developers demolishing the bankrupt kibbutz and erecting a casino resort, the old-timers organize to rebuild a society betrayed by their progeny. Director Jonathan Paz—whose parents were kibbutzniks—creates a loving swan song for the kibbutz ideal and celebrates how the disempowered find the power to determine their fate.

Topics: Zionism, Kibbutz Movement, Israel, Senior Citizens

Community Partner: The Summit at First Hill



I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN YOU: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SIMON WIESENTHAL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 8:45 PM ■ MOHAI

Director: Richard Trank

United States ■ 2007 ■ Beta ■ 105 minutes

English/German

How did a man who trained as an architect track down some of the world's most notorious war criminals? Discover the history and legacy of legendary Nazi hunter and humanitarian Simon Wiesenthal in this stirring documentary. Narrated by Academy Award-winning actress Nicole Kidman, *I Have Never Forgotten You* features previously unseen archival footage and interviews with friends, family and world leaders.

Topics: Holocaust, Survival, Anti-Semitism, History

Community Partners: Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center & WA State Jewish Historical Society

Co-sponsored by SIFF

JELLYFISH (*Meduzot*)

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 9:30 PM ■ MOHAI

Directors: Shira Geffen, Etgar Keret

Israel ■ 2007 ■ 35mm ■ 78 minutes

French/German/Hebrew/Tagalog



Poignant, often witty and exceedingly dramatic, *Jellyfish* tells the story of three very different Tel Aviv women whose intersecting stories weave an unlikely portrait of modern Israeli life. Co-directors and husband and wife team, Etgar Keret and Shira Geffen, are popular Israeli writers. *Jellyfish*, their first feature-length film won the prestigious Camera d'Or for Best First Feature at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival.

Topics: *Women, Israel, Relationships, Art Film*

■ Screens with **SHMULI'S DREAM** (short)

■ Warning: Mature content



Community Partners: Israeli Consulate in San Francisco and Nextbook

JEWISH WOMEN IN AMERICAN SPORT (short)

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 5:15 ■ Cinerama

Director: Shuli Eshel, producer/director

Dr. Linda J. Borish, Executive producer/historian

United States ■ 2007 ■ Beta ■ 27 minutes ■ English

From the Settlement Houses to the Olympics, this short documentary captures the historic role Jewish women have played in shaping American sports.

Topics: *Women, Sports, Women Director, NYC/Lower East Side History*

■ Screens with **THE FIRST BASKET**



STROUM JCC 55+ \$6 LUNCH
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(Reservations required)

RSVP to Roni at SJCC:
206.232.7115 x 269
Seating is limited.
No tickets sold at the door.

KEEPING UP WITH THE STEINS

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 12:00 NOON ■ Stroum JCC

Director: Scott Marshall

United States ■ 2006 ■ DVD ■ 99 minutes ■ English

Benjamin Fiedler is preparing for his Bar Mitzvah. Trouble is, he understands neither its meaning nor the Hebrew, and his parents (particularly his successful-agent father, played deftly by Jeremy Piven, loving mother, played by Jami Gertz) are planning the most lavish party possible. Benjamin wants his dad to give him some space, so he invites the grandfather he's never met, and for whom his dad has an intense dislike. Thanks in part to grandpa, Benjamin may have a shot at figuring out what it means to be Bar Mitzvah and a man.

Topics: *Coming-of-Age, Bar Mitzvah, Comedy, Family Relations*



Community Partner: Stroum Jewish Community Center



THE LAST JEWS OF LIBYA

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 12:45 PM ■ Cinerama

Director: Vivienne Roumani-Denn

United States ■ 2007 ■ Beta ■ 50 minutes

Arabic/English/Hebrew/Italian



Through personal photographs and memories, filmmaker Vivienne Roumani-Denn chronicles her family's touching and harrowing story and the plight of Libya's once-thriving Jewish community. Beautifully narrated by Isabella Rossellini, her documentary sheds light on the thriving Jewish community that once existed in Libya, tracing its origins back to the 3rd century B.C. It was not until the dawn of the Second World War that the Jews of Libya faced their greatest troubles. The arrival of the Italians eventually ushered in fascism, an assault on the community that left a lasting mark, followed by British rule under which the Jews suffered pogroms. Roumani-Denn raises some very important questions about identity, community, family and finding a home in the world.

Topics: Sephardic Jewish History, Family, Personal Story, Anti-Semitism

Community Partners: American Sephardi Foundation in support of Seattle's Sephardic Ladino Heritage Group



LOVE AND DANCE (*Sipur Hatzi Russi*)

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 6:30 PM ■ MOHAI

Director: Eitan Anner

Israel ■ 2006 ■ 35mm ■ 93 minutes

Hebrew, Russian, English

Israel's answer to *Billy Elliot* and *Mad Hot Ballroom*, *Love & Dance* is an irresistible film about a young boy caught in the crossroads between his clashing Russian-born mother and Israeli father. When infatuation leads him to take ballroom dancing lessons, our unlikely hero uses the Waltz and the Cha Cha to bridge the culture gap of his fractured family.

Topics: Israel, Russian immigrants, Coming-of-Age, Ballroom Dance, Family Relations

■ **Warning:** Some language and mature content

**Intiman Theatre, Temple Beth Am and
Temple B'nai Torah**

Co-sponsored by SIFF



MAKING TROUBLE

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 4:00 PM ■ Cinerama

Director: Rachel Talbot

United States ■ 2007 ■ DigiBeta ■ 85 minutes ■ English



Special Guests: Comedienne Judy Gold and Jewish Women's Archive film producers Gail Twersky Reimer and Lauren Antler



This not-to-be missed irresistible documentary profiles six great female comic entertainers: Molly Picon, Fanny Brice, Sophie Tucker, Joan Rivers, Gilda Radner and Wendy Wasserstein. Jewish comedienne Judy Gold, Cory Kahaney and others play peanut gallery, commenting and schmoozing over lunch at Katz's Deli in New York City. They discuss what it means to be Jewish, female and funny.

Topics: Women, Women Director, Comedy, Popular Entertainments, Jewish Humor

■ **Warning:** Some language

**Michele Rosen, Shelley & James Dillon, Bob & Eileen Gilman
Family Foundation, Michele and Stan Rosen and the Rosen Family
Foundation.**

Community Partners: Jewish Women's Archive and
Seattle Repertory Theatre

**MATZOH MOMMA
SUNDAY BRUNCH**
Sunday at 10:00 AM



MAX MINSKY AND ME (*Max Minsky und Ich*)

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, Brunch 10:00 AM/Film 11:00 AM ■ Cinerama

Director: Anna Justice

Germany ■ 2007 ■ 35mm ■ 94 minutes ■ German

Nelly Sue Edelmeister (Zoe Moore) is a skinny 13-year-old future astronomer living in Berlin with her divorcing American Jewish mother (Adriana Altaras) and German Christian father (Jan Josef Liefers). Though her mom pushes her to practice for her fast-approaching Bat Mitzvah, Nelly is more fascinated by the cosmos. When a basketball championship offers her a chance to meet fellow-astronomer and heartthrob Prince Edouard, Nelly turns to Max Minsky for help. Holly-Jane Rahlens based the screenplay on her novel, which received the German Award for Young Peoples Literature in 2003.

Topics: *Coming-of-age, Youth/Bat Mitzvah, German Jews, Family Life, Science, Basketball, Family Friendly Film*



Community Partners: Camp Kalsman, Consulate General of Germany in San Francisco, Jewish Day School and Young Judea Seattle Office

MOM, I DIDN'T KILL YOUR DAUGHTER

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 7:00 PM ■ Cinerama

Director: Orna Ben Dor

Israel ■ 2007 ■ DigiBeta ■ 50 minutes

Hebrew



Lior and Yuval are a couple. Both were born women, but throughout their lives felt their true gender identity to be male and that the female bodies were alien to them. Now they are struggling to change what is thought unchangeable. Yuval, who has taken hormones regularly for seven years and undergone surgery, is fighting to have his identification documents say "male." Lior has commenced the process, and his mother has to embrace a new son instead of the daughter she raised for 22 years. A moving tale of transformation both physical and emotional.

Topics: *GLBT, Family, Personal Story, Gender Transformation, Women Directors*

■ **Screens with A TRIP TO PRAGUE** (short)

■ **Warning:** Mature content



Community Partners: Bashert: The LGBT Initiative, Pride Foundation and Three Dollar Bill Cinem's Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

TWO SCREENINGS
Seattle and Tacoma



MY MEXICAN SHIVAH

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 9:30 PM ■ Cinerama

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 7:00 PM ■ WA State Historical Museum, Tacoma

Director: Alejandro Springall

Mexico ■ 2006 ■ 35mm ■ 102 minutes ■ Hebrew/Spanish/Yiddish



Special Guest: Director Alejandro Springall on April 6

The seven days of mourning, or *shivah*, of beloved Jewish-Mexican patriarch Moishe Tartovsky is the occasion for a colorful gathering of family, friends and lovers, capped off by a mariachi band singing "Hava Nagila." *My Mexican Shivah* is based on a short story by Ilan Stavans and co-produced by John Sayles, with an original score by the Klezmatics.

Topics: *Latin American Culture, Fathers/Sons, Family Relationships, Literature, Yiddish folktales, Drama/Theatre/Comedy*

■ **Warning:** Mature content



Community Partner: Mexican Consulate and Temple Beth El in Tacoma



NATURALIZED (short)

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 7:30 PM ■ Cinerama

Director: Julia Knots

United States ■ 2006 ■ DigiBeta ■ 8 minutes
English/Russian



A Russian immigrant to the US wages a hilarious battle with his overbearing parents when he decides to undergo the ultimate rite of Jewish male identity.

■ Screens with **ORTHODOX STANCE**

Community Partner: Northwest Yeshiva High School



NOODLE

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, Closing Remarks Begin 9:00 PM ■ Cinerama

Director: Ayelet Menahemi

Israel ■ 2007 ■ 35mm ■ 95 minutes ■ Hebrew/Mandarin

Miri's life has been crumbling around her for years. She wants nothing more than to be left alone, but things change when Miri's Chinese housekeeper asks her to watch her son for an hour and she never comes back. Despite the language barrier, Miri tries to reunite the boy she affectionately calls "Noodle" with his mother. *Noodle* is a touching, light-hearted story about the importance of family and emotional healing.

Topics: Chinese Family, Jewish Family, Israel, Adoption, Immigration

■ Screens with **SJFF CLOSING NIGHT TRAILER** by Raintree Productions

Sponsors: The Engelstein Family

Co-sponsored by Wild Ginger Restaurant



ORTHODOX STANCE

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 7:30 PM ■ Cinerama

Director: Jason Hutt

United States ■ 2007 ■ DigiBeta ■ 83 minutes
English/Russian



Special Guest: Director Jason Hutt

The son of Ukrainian emigres to Brooklyn, Dmitriy Salita, 24, is an oxymoron: a champion boxer and an uncompromising Orthodox Jew. In the words of his trainer Jimmy Pharrow, Dmitriy "looks Russian, prays Jewish, and fights Black." Director Jason Hutt treats viewers to ringside seats as we meet the colorful characters that champion Dmitriy's fight for his faith and a title.

Topics: Orthodox Judaism, Boxing, Sports, Russian Jewish immigrants

■ Screens with **NATURALIZED** (short)



Community Partner: Northwest Yeshiva High School

PIGEON (short)

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 5:00 PM ■ MOHAI

Director: Anthony Green

Canada ■ 2006 ■ Beta ■ 11 minutes

English/German



Set during World War II and based on a true story, *Pigeon* recounts a rare and startling act of charity. Sumptuously shot and emotionally affecting, Anthony Green's short drama features Academy Award nominee Michael Lerner, and Canadian treasure Wendy Crewson.

■ Screens with FREE LAND



Community Partner: Music of Remembrance

PRAYING WITH LIOR

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 1:00 PM ■ Cinerama

Director: Ilana Trachtman

United States ■ 2007 ■ DigiBeta ■ 87 minutes

English



Special Guest: Director Ilana Trachtman

Soon-to-be Bar Mitzvah, Lior Liebling *davens* (prays) and sings with utterly infectious joy and abandon. A spiritual savant, "the little rebbe," as some call him, has Down's syndrome. This intimate, irresistible documentary is an exploration on the subject of disability and a high-five celebration of family, community, and the human spirit. Inspiring music by Andy Statman.

Topics: Youth/Bar Mitzvah Students, Disabilities, Spirituality and Religion, Family-Friendly (all ages)



Sponsors: Jewish Family Service and Herzl Ner-Tamid Conservative Congregation

REFUSENIK

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 6:00 PM ■ MOHAI

Director: Laura Bialis

United States ■ 2007 ■ 35mm ■ 112 minutes

English/Russian/Hebrew



Special Guest: Director Laura Bialis

Refusenik is the first retrospective documentary to chronicle the 30-year movement to free Soviet Jews. It shows how a small grassroots effort, bold enough to take on a Cold War superpower, blossomed into an international human-rights campaign. Told through the eyes of activists on both sides of the Iron Curtain—many of whom survived punishment in Soviet Gulag labor camps—the film weaves first-person accounts of heroism, sacrifice and ultimately liberation. Many of the photographs and covert film footage—some smuggled out of the Soviet Union—have never been seen before by audiences.

Topics: Anti-Semitism, Soviet Jews, Civil & Human Rights, Cold War, Israel, American History



Community Partner: The Henry M. Jackson Foundation

This film was supported with a major grant from the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, who will host a special Post-film Reception in the McCurdy Gallery honoring the film's director, Laura Bialis.



SHMULI'S DREAM (short)

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 9:30 PM ■ MOHAI

Directors: J. Baab with Eli Rosenblatt and David Bestock

United States ■ 2007 ■ Beta ■ 3 minutes

English



Special Guests: Local Seattle Filmmakers/Producers J. Baab, Eli Rosenblatt and David Bestock

Shmuli dreams that his apartment is overrun by klezmer musicians. As he goes about his morning routine, accordians and clarinets pour into his tiny apartment - from the bathtub to the fridge. A whimsical story about Jewish roots showing up where you least expect them. This is a collaboration between three Seattle friends, all of whom will attend the world premiere screening of their film.

■ Screens with JELLYFISH



Community Partner: Israeli Consulate in San Francisco and Nextbook



A SLIM PEACE

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 6:30 PM ■ MOHAI

Director: Yael Luttwak

United States ■ 2007 ■ Beta ■ 59 minutes

Arabic/Hebrew/English



Can the universal struggle for weight loss advance peace in the Middle East? That is the question posed by filmmaker Yael Luttwak in this clever and illuminating documentary. When the peace process breaks down in 2000, Luttwak organizes a group of 14 disparate women—secular urban Israelis, religious Jewish settlers, Bedouin Arabs, Palestinians, young and not-so-young, well-off and less-so—to form a weight loss group in Jerusalem. In their first encounter, the discomfort among the women is palpable. But as the pounds melt away, so too does their mistrust and friendships emerge despite strong personalities and geopolitics.

Topics: Arab-Israeli Conflict, Women, Orthodox Community, Personal Stories

Community Partner: Women's Endowment Foundation



Festivities include video DJ, dancing and giveaways! Doors open at 7:00 PM



SIXTY SIX

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 8:00 PM (Doors Open 7:00) ■ Cinerama

Director: Paul Weiland

United Kingdom ■ 2006 ■ 35mm ■ 93 minutes

English

Bernie Rubens cannot wait for his Bar Mitzvah day to arrive. For once he will be the center of attention! Who knew that on his big day, in the summer of 1966, all of England would be consumed by World Cup Soccer Final fever? This riotous British coming-of-age comedy stars Helena Bonham Carter and features Stephen Rea.

Topics: Coming-of-Age/B'nai Mitzvah, Soccer, Family-friendly Comedy

Sponsor: Tom Douglas Catering & Events

SOMEONE TO RUN WITH (*Mashehu Larutz Lo*)



SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 7:00 PM ■ MOHAI

Director: Oded Davidoff

Israel ■ 2006 ■ 35mm ■ 118 minutes ■ Hebrew



Israel@60 Panel: "60 Years of Israeli Film" with Director Eyal Halfon, moderated by Hannah Pressman, UW Jewish Studies

Assaf, an awkward 17-year-old, is yanked from his mundane summer job and given an impossible task: to track down the owner of a lost Labrador found wandering the streets of Jerusalem. At leash's end, Assaf follows a riveting and circuitous path, piecing together an incredible story and mysterious tale of disappearance. The dog's owner, Tamar, a gifted musician, is ensnared in the seamy underworld of Jerusalem's drug dens. *Someone to Run With* is an accelerated journey into adulthood, self-discovery, and first love. A heartfelt and surprisingly hopeful story, based on the best-selling novel by David Grossman. Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Miami International Film Festival.

Topics: Women, Israel, Relationships, Coming-of-Age

Warning: Mature content



Sponsor: Animal Hospital of Factoria, Shlomo Freiman, DVM.

Community Partners: Israeli Consulate in San Francisco and Tree of Life Judaica & Books

SWEET MUD (*Adama Meshuga'at*)

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 9:30 PM ■ Cinerama

Director: Dror Shaul

Israel ■ 2006 ■ 35mm ■ 100 minutes

English/French/Hebrew



Special Guest: Dror Shaul invited

It is 1974. On a *kibbutz* (collective farming community) in southern Israel, a boy enters a troubled Bar Mitzvah year. A series of earthshaking conflicts will test their kibbutz community. *Sweet Mud* peels back the romantic mythology surrounding communal life on the utopic Israeli kibbutz to tell a more personal, poignant story of thwarted love, adolescent awakening, human longings and failings. It is a deeply felt and beautifully photographed drama, worthy of all the acclaim it has received. Winner of the Sundance 2007 Dramatic World Cinema Jury Award, the Berlinale 2007 Crystal Bear for Best Feature Film, and 2006 Israeli Academy Best Film.

Topics: Youth/Bar Mitzvah, Israel, Kibbutz Life, Family, Coming of Age, Mental Health

Warning: Mature content and language



Community Partner: The Jewish Studies Program at the Henry M. Jackson School for International Studies at the University of Washington

Co-sponsored by SIFF

A TRIP TO PRAGUE (short)

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 7:00 PM ■ Cinerama

Director: Neil Ira Needleman

United States ■ 2005 ■ DigiBeta ■ 4 minutes

English



While traveling, a nice Jewish boy meets a nice Jewish couple who want to introduce him to their nice Jewish daughter. A funny, poignant story with a nice Jewish gay-boy ending, *A Trip to Prague* is an animated gem! Juried winner for Best Boys Short at the 2007 Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival.

Screens with MOM, I DIDN'T KILL YOUR DAUGHTER



Community Partners: Bashert: The LGBT Initiative, Pride Foundation & Three Dollar Bill Cinema's Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

The Seattle Jewish Film Festival gratefully acknowledges
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www.seattlejewishfilmfestival.org/sponsor

AJC is Working to Build a Better Future

Please join us for these inspiring programs.

SHEMANSKI



Friday, May 2nd at MOHAI

FilmTalks is a day-long event for high school students built around a film whose focus is on promoting tolerance and combating bigotry. This year's film is *Sophie Scholl: The Final Days*, about German student resistance to the Nazis. Facilitators and other volunteers are needed to facilitate 20-30 small group discussions and manage 300 high school students from diverse schools. For more information, contact smiths@ajc.org or call 206-622-6315, ext. 3.



Sponsors: The Alfred & Tillie Shemanski Trust, The Norcliffe Foundation, Trader Joe's and The Bagel Deli



Max H. Block Student Human Relations Awards

Juniors and seniors from area high schools are encouraged to be nominated by their schools for this award, if they have done outstanding work to promote better human relations in their schools or communities. Four finalists will each receive a \$500 scholarship toward higher education. Students should contact their guidance departments and ask them to contact laytnera@ajc.org or call 206-622-6315, ext. 2 for more information. Nominations will be accepted through April 18th. The Max H. Block Student Human Relations Awards is sponsored in part by Union Bank of California.

AJC SALUTES

Wednesday, May 28th, 6:00 p.m.

Bell Harbor Conference Center

AJC Salutes presents a platform for the four Block Student Human Relations Award finalists to talk about, and be recognized for, their service to the community. This event is a perennial favorite because it allows the best of the coming generation to share their hopes and dreams. This year AJC Salutes will also posthumously honor Dr. Ho Feng Shan, a Chinese diplomat in Vienna who defied his government and issued visas for Shanghai to desperate Jews during WWII. His daughter, Manli Ho, will be present to speak and to receive our appreciation. The event includes a cocktail reception and banquet dinner. For more information, contact crowellk@ajc.org or call 206-622-6315, ext. 4.



American Jewish Committee

SJFF 2008 FILMS: *Print Sources*

888-GO-KOSHER (short)

Kavanah Productions
Lauren Shweider Biel
les259@nyu.edu

Arranged

Film Movement
Cassidy Dimon, Acquisitions
and Festival Coordinator
212.941.7744 ext. 212
cassidy@filmmovement.com
www.filmmovement.com
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Aviva My Love

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info@thefirstbasket.com
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I Have Never Forgotten You

Edward Noeltner
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310.300.9959
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luminous-velocity@earthlink.net

Jellyfish

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www.zeitgeistfilms.com

Jewish Women in American Sport

Shuli Eshel, Filmmaker
Eshel Productions
eshelred@aol.com
773.868.4140/4149

Last Jews of Libya

National Center for Jewish Film
Juliet Burch, Film Distribution
781.899.7044
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www.lastjewsoflibya.com

Love and Dance

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Nick Donnermeyer
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Lauren Antler
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lantler@jwa.org
www.makingtrouble.com

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Xiaojuan Zhou, Vice President
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Mom, I Didn't Kill Your Daughter

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elinors@hsil.tv

My Mexican Shiva

Joshua Green
Emerging Pictures
212.245.6767
josh@emergingpictures.com
www.emergingpictures.com

Naturalized (short)

Julia Kots, filmmaker
julia.kots@aya.yale.edu
917.696.9728

Noodle

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Nick Donnermeyer
nick@bleibergent.com
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Orthodox Stance

Jason Hutt, Director
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www.orthodoxstance.com

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Shmuli's Dream (local short)

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206.522.1609
pico@pico.net

Slim Peace, A

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assaf@cinophil.co.il
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+972.3.681.2121
info@israelifilms.co.il

Trip to Prague, A (short)

Neil Ira Needleman, Director
914.232.0875
914.649.6305 (cell)
neil@neilneedleman.com
www.neilneedleman.com

2008 Ticket and Pass Prices

ADVANCE TICKET SALES:

Tickets and passes are non-refundable and can be purchased through SJFF's official Web site and through Brown Paper Tickets. Tickets purchased online or by phone can be mailed or picked up at SJFF will-call, open one hour prior to screenings the day of show. You can also purchase tickets with cash or credit cards in person at Brown Paper Ticket locations.

SJFF BOX OFFICE: DAY OF SHOW

Same-day tickets can only be purchased in person at the theatre box office, open one hour prior to screenings. Please check Web site to make sure the screening is not sold out in advance and check schedule for box office location by venue. Cash, VISA/MC or check only.

TICKET PRICES

INDIVIDUAL SALES: \$10 General; \$7 student w/valid ID/youth under 13/senior 65+/SJFF Supporter Card for co-sponsored films.

GROUP SALES: \$7 per person (groups of 15 or more)

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Opening Night Film & Cocktail Party hosted by Tom Douglas at the Palace Ballroom: \$50 (includes film). Advance tickets only. No tickets sold at the door.

Opening Night Film & Centerpiece Screening Tickets: \$25 each.

Matzoh Momma Sunday Brunch & Film:

\$20; \$15 student/youth/senior; \$60 family (up to 4)

Geva Alon in Concert: \$7; \$5 student/senior.

PASSES

SJFF FILM ONLY PASS: \$150; \$125 student/senior/AJC member. Festival films only. Includes Centerpiece screening.

SJFF FESTIVAL PASS PLUS: \$200; \$175 student/senior/AJC member. All festival films and ticketed events, including one ticket to the Opening Night Party hosted by Tom Douglas.

SJFF FLEX PASS: "8 PUNCH & BRUNCH" \$85; \$60 student/senior/AJC member.

- 8 films total plus one admission to Brunch. So bring a friend or seven to the movies. Each screening is a punch.
- Restrictions: Only one admission to: Opening Night Film at Cinerama, Matzoh Momma Sunday Brunch and Centerpiece Screening with performance by Judy Gold.

PASS HOLDER POLICY

Passholders must arrive **20 minutes before show** time to be guaranteed seating! All passes, except SJFF Flex Pass, are *non-transferable*. Please support the festival by encouraging family and friends to purchase tickets and passes.

Please arrive with your pass visible! You will be seated first so we can count passholders and determine the number of tickets the box office can sell. This is especially important at MOHAI, where there is limited seating. If you wish to stay for multiple contiguous screenings, volunteers will check passes in-between screenings and you can stick around once checked or leave your things while we clean the theatre. We thank you for your support and cooperation!

Festival Venue Information



CINERAMA THEATRE

2100-4th Avenue (@ Lenora), Belltown, Seattle
www.cinerama.com

Limited paid parking in the lot adjacent to Cinerama (corner of Lenora and 5th). This parking lot includes 3 handicapped spaces. More paid parking across the street at the Warwick Hotel.



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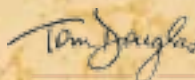
www.washingtonhistory.org/wshs/contact.htm

Parking for our disabled visitors is available on the back (east) side of the museum, next to the freeway. There is an entrance at the lower level with an elevator, and a ramp leads up to the Pacific Avenue level.



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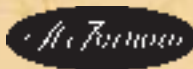
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www.seattlehistory.org



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