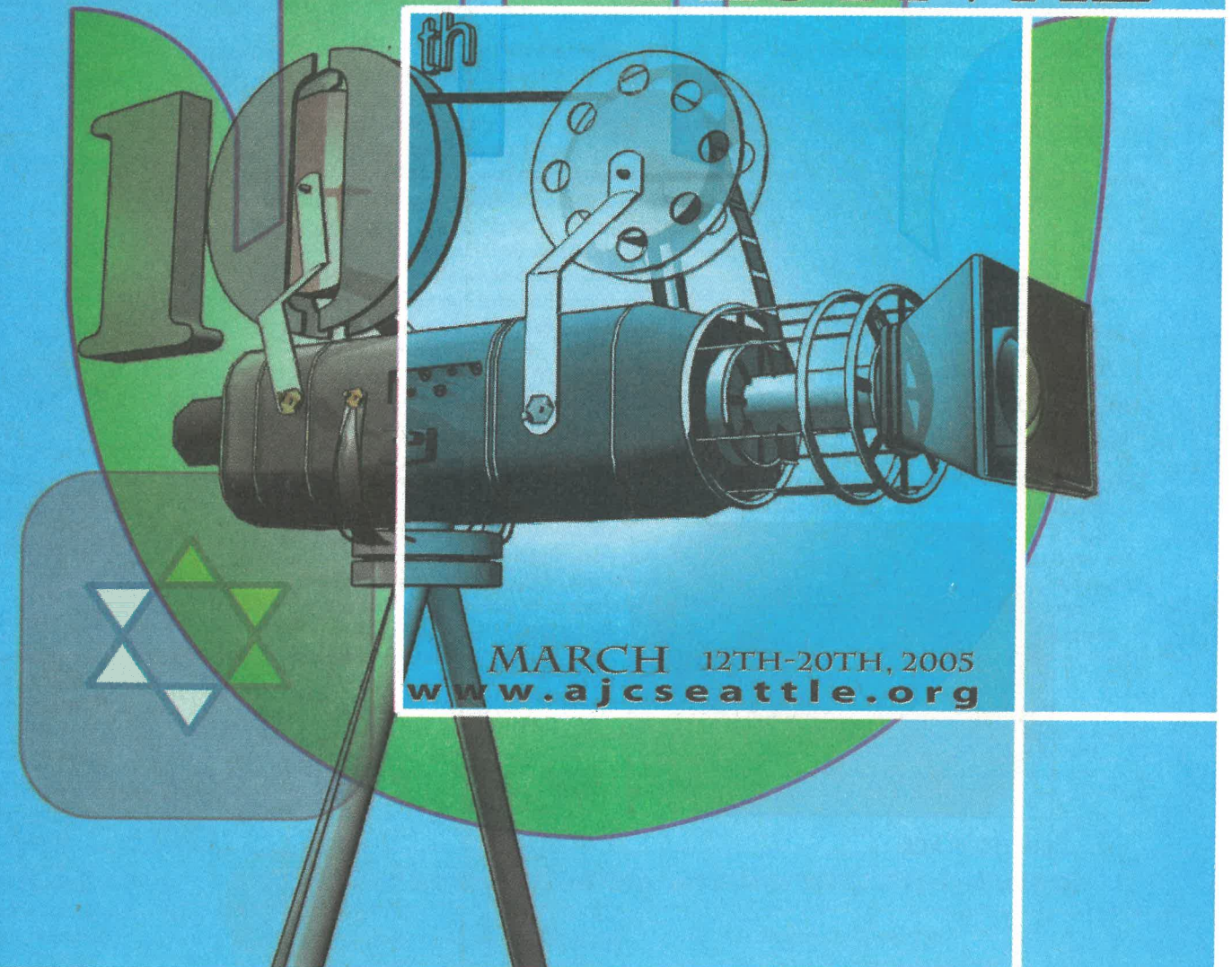


The American Jewish Committee Presents

10TH ANNUAL
SEATTLE JEWISH
FILM
FESTIVAL



MARCH 12TH-20TH, 2005
www.ajcseattle.org

Festival Sponsors:



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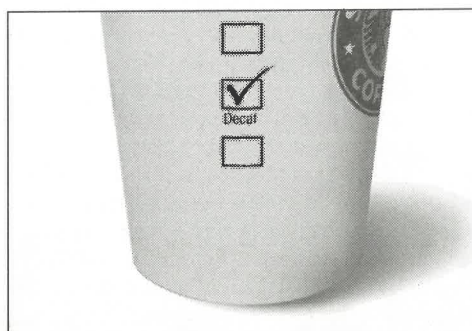
Participating Theatres: Cinerama, Broadway Performance Hall, 5th Avenue



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The American Jewish Committee

Advancing democracy, pluralism and mutual understanding

Congratulations to us!! Together we celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the Seattle Jewish Film Festival (SJFF) — the American Jewish Committee's gift to Seattle.

From its beginning ten years ago in a 100-seat theatre, SJFF has grown to be one of the top Jewish film festivals in the country and the largest Jewish event in the Northwest. The medium of film is an ideal vehicle to further the goals of the AJC; to nurture pluralism, build bridges among racial, religious and ethnic groups and enrich the quality of American Jewish life. We hope you will learn from, be stimulated by and thoroughly enjoy the films representing more than ten countries.

This year we will again open at the Cinerama. Then we move to the Broadway Performance Hall. Here will be housed the Deborah Rosen and Nancy Vineberg Tenth Anniversary Center to honor the achievements of SJFF Founding Chair and Festival Director. Take time to explore the history, memorabilia, and films from the past ten years. Our grand finale will be at the magnificent Fifth Avenue Theatre. Its elegance will be a perfect setting in which to end our exciting week.

To further celebrate this monumental year and the achievements it represents, we have added programs and expanded our outreach. Our free-for-seniors matinees will take place at the Stroum Jewish Community Center on Mercer Island and the Summit at First Hill and the Kline Galland Home in Seattle. Lunch will be served at the SJCC and groups will be bussed in from several assisted living facilities.

FILMTalks! is another program that was conceived and developed eight years ago and today is being modeled across the country. On March 14th and again in April more than 600 students will take part in this day-long diversity training workshop using film to promote dialogue. Here students from many ethnic and socio-economic groups sit together discussing diversity and tolerance in a safe environment where they feel comfortable expressing their opinions.

Although our Seattle chapter's obvious focus this week is the festival, we have other outstanding programs and speakers throughout the year. The AJC is a great presence nationally and internationally. It works to effect change in various human rights causes and it provides a strong voice in support of Israel.

A big part of the festival planning this year was facilitated with the help of the co-chairs who worked far beyond their job descriptions: Moshe Dunie, Karen Hudesman, Pip Meyerson and Janet Rosenblatt.

A huge thank you to the SJFF and AJC staff who have worked tirelessly to bring this 10th Anniversary festival and celebration to you: Julie Hammer Mahdavi, Pamela Lavitt, Leslie Fried, Rabbi Anson Laytner and Melissa Beehner.

Lastly, we want to thank you — our audience, volunteers and supporters. We hope you will peruse the program throughout this week, note our community donors and show them your thanks by supporting their places of business. Please help us continue this cycle of mutual support.

Once again, we lower the lights. Films and festivities! Feast and enjoy as we celebrate our tenth anniversary!

Julie Rosen

Leslie Rosen
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American Jewish Committee and Seattle Jewish Film Festival Staff

AJC Executive Director

Rabbi Anson Laytner

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Poster Design: Cole Sones

2005 Schedule at a Glance

	Film	Time	Location
Saturday March 12	OPENING NIGHT DESSERT GALA		
	Sliding Flora (short) Only Human 	7:30 PM	Cinerama
Sunday March 13	Paper Clips	11:30 AM	Cinerama
	JAI (short)	2:30 PM	Cinerama
	El Ultimo Sefaradi (The Last Sephardic Jew)	5:00 PM	Cinerama
	Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust	7:30 PM	Cinerama
Monday March 14	Backseat Bingo (short)	7:30 PM	Cinerama
	Le Grand Role		
	FREE KLINE GALLAND HOME SENIORS MATINEE*		Kline Galland Home
	Backseat Bingo (short)	11:30 AM	
Tuesday March 15	The Personals		
	Behind Enemy Lines	6:30 PM	Cinerama
	Avant-garde Jewish Wedding (short)	9:00 PM	Cinerama
	Suzie Gold		
Wednesday March 16	FREE SUMMIT AT FIRST HILL SENIORS MATINEE*		Summit at First Hill
	Backseat Bingo (short)	11:30 AM	
	The Personals		
	Miss Entebbe	6:30 PM	BPH
Thursday March 17	Keep On Walking: Joshua Nelson, Jewish Gospel Singer	8:30 PM	BPH
	Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness	4:00 PM	BPH
	The Man Who Loved Haugesund	6:30 PM	BPH
	A Different War (short)	8:30 PM	BPH
Friday March 18	The Tollbooth		
	FREE SENIORS 55+ MATINEE & LUNCH		Stroum Jewish Community Center
	Watermarks	11:30 AM	
	Kosher Cop (short)	6:30 PM	BPH
Saturday March 19	The Chosen People		
	Nuclear Physicist Sings to the 70s (short)	8:45 PM	BPH
	To Take a Wife		
	Walk on Water	7:30 PM	BPH
Sunday March 20	Or (Mon Tresor)  	10:00 PM	BPH
	BAGEL BRUNCH	Brunch: 9:30 AM	BPH
	Watermarks	Film: 10:30 AM	BPH
	Finding Eleazar	1:00 PM	BPH
Monday March 21	Nina's Tragedies 	5:00 PM	BPH
	CLOSING NIGHT PATRON PARTY & FILM		
	Turn Left at the End of the World 	7:30 PM	5th Ave

 WARNING: Mature content; nudity
  WARNING: Sexually explicit; graphic violence

* These events are open only to residents and guests of Kline Galland Home and Summit at First Hill

BPH= Broadway Performance Hall, Broadway & Pine C= Cinerama Theatre, 4th & Lenora
 5th Ave= 5th Avenue Theatre, 1308 5th Avenue



The American Jewish Committee
 Advancing democracy, pluralism and mutual understanding

March 2005

As the nation's pioneer human relations agency, the American Jewish Committee was created to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry, promote human rights, and advocate public policy positions rooted in American democratic and Jewish ethical values. For almost 100 years, the American Jewish Committee has brought people of all races, ethnic groups, and religions together to address openly the most pressing challenges of our day and, as a consequence, to enhance the pluralistic fabric of our nation.

Now more than ever, it is vital in our turbulent world for communities to come together and to learn and gain strength from one another. I applaud the efforts of our Greater Seattle Chapter in sponsoring the Seattle Jewish Film Festival, thereby creating this unique opportunity to engage in community-building.

This film festival provides film makers with an extraordinary venue in which to show their movies. Once again, the festival has assembled a group of films that portray the joys and challenges of Jewish life around the world, from Israel to Europe to right here at home.

As the festival celebrates its tenth anniversary, it gives me great satisfaction for the American Jewish Committee to be spearheading this exploration of Jewish culture through film. Via this medium, mutual understanding and cross-cultural communication are, we hope, further advanced.

Enjoy the festival!

Sincerely,

David A. Harris
 Executive Director
 The American Jewish Committee

Advancing Democracy, Pluralism and Mutual Understanding
www.ajc.org

The Deborah Rosen and Nancy Vineberg Tenth Anniversary Center

In celebration of our tenth year, we have established a commemorative center which will be housed at the Broadway Performance Hall and open during Festival hours from March 15-20. We have dedicated and named the center for **SJFF Founding Chair, Deborah Rosen**, and **Former Director, Nancy Vineberg**, in recognition of their extraordinary leadership and vision in the creation of **The Seattle Jewish Film Festival**. SJFF, since its origins as a small pilot AJC membership program in 1995, has become the Seattle AJC's signature program, and one of the largest and most highly regarded film festivals in the country.

Spend time in this warmly decorated room complete with Persian carpets, leather sofas and chairs, Persian sweets and tea served from a samovar, while perusing memorabilia, program guides and highlights, and viewing shorts and films from our past ten years! A timeline of past chairs, directors, and films, including many Academy Award winners in the Best Foreign Film and Best Documentary categories will be a "walk down memory lane" for film lovers.

The Center will also house memorabilia, medals and photographs from one of the original team members of the Hakoah Sports Club of Vienna, founded in 1909, and featured in this year's award-winning film *Watermarks*. These treasures are on loan to us from her family members, who live in the Northwest.

You will find all of this and more at **The Deborah Rosen and Nancy Vineberg Tenth Anniversary Center**.

Decorations and design of the room provided by *Leather's, Pars Market and Tree of Life Judaica & Books*.

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Committee Board
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Meanwhile, in Antarctica ...



Newlyweds Jessica & David pause to catch up on hometown news while honeymooning with a colony of Gentoo penguins at Michelson Harbor in Antarctica.

(Stranger things have happened.)

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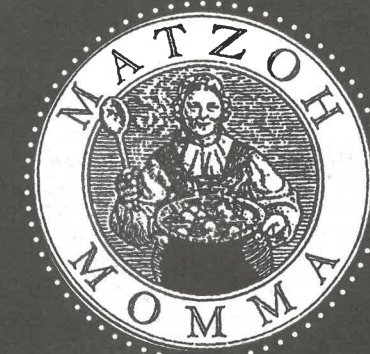
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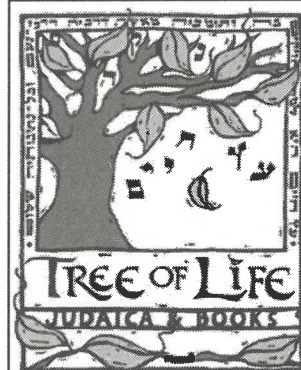
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Offer good through April 15th, 2005. One-time use only.

7:30 PM

Sliding Flora (short)

Northwest Premiere
Israel 2003, Beta, 12 min.
Hebrew and Spanish w/subtitles
Directed by Talya Lavie

A quirky coming-of-age film from the Sam Spiegel Film & Television School in Jerusalem. Flora was born in a flower field in Cuba, or so she keeps telling her impatient customers. A waitress in an Israeli coffee shop that requires complex acrobatic skills, Flora can't take it anymore. But she hasn't lost her flair for the dramatic.

FOLLOWED BY:

Only Human

West Coast Premiere
Spain, United Kingdom, Argentina, Portugal 2004, 35mm, 89 min.
Spanish w/subtitles
Directed by Teresa de Pelegri & Dominin Harari

A delightful black comedy, *Only Human* is a sidesplitting Jewish take on *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. When a daughter brings her fiancé home to meet her lovable, dysfunctional family for the first time, everything goes smoothly until the boyfriend reveals he is Palestinian. Troubles compound when the fiancé accidentally drops a frozen block of soup out their seventh-floor window with disastrous results that spiral out of control. Thanks to a series of hilarious misunderstandings and a zany cast of characters, including the caring but neurotic mother (Norma Aleandro), this brilliantly written, rapid-fire script packs a lot of fun into and pokes fun at our off-color assumptions about human nature.



Warning: Mature content/brief nudity

Sponsored by Tree of Life Judaica & Books
Media Sponsor: JTNews



Saturday,
March 12

CineRama
Theatre

Opening
Night

Special Post-film Event:

Dessert Extravaganza
Reception by
Tom Douglas
Catering & Events
at the
Palace Ballroom,
2100 Fifth Avenue

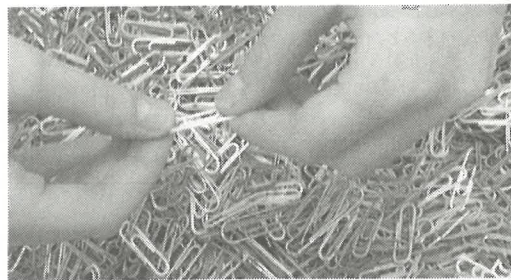
Tickets sold
in advance only
for this event.

Sunday,
March 13

CineSama
Theatre

11:30 AM
Paper Clips

Seattle Premiere
USA 2004, 35mm, 87 min.
Directed by Joe Fab & Elliot Berlin



In the small, mostly white, Christian community of Whitwell, Tennessee (population 2,000), the middle-school students were having trouble understanding the massive scale of the Holocaust — an unfathomable crime against humanity far removed from their daily lives. So they decided to try an experiment: collect paper clips to represent each individual exterminated by the Nazis. Before long it became clear just what an enormous and soul-searching task that was. The community found themselves in the middle of an unforgettable, life-changing project that opened their horizons emotionally, geographically and religiously. The amazing result, a memorial that stands permanently in their schoolyard, is an inspiring lesson about how a committed group of children can change the world, one classroom, one paper clip at a time.

Sponsored by Congregation Herzl-Ner Tamid and Temple Beth Am

2:30 PM
JAI ("Life," short)

Northwest Premiere
Mexico 2004, 35mm, 9 min.
Spanish w/subtitles
Directed by Ariel Zylbersztjn

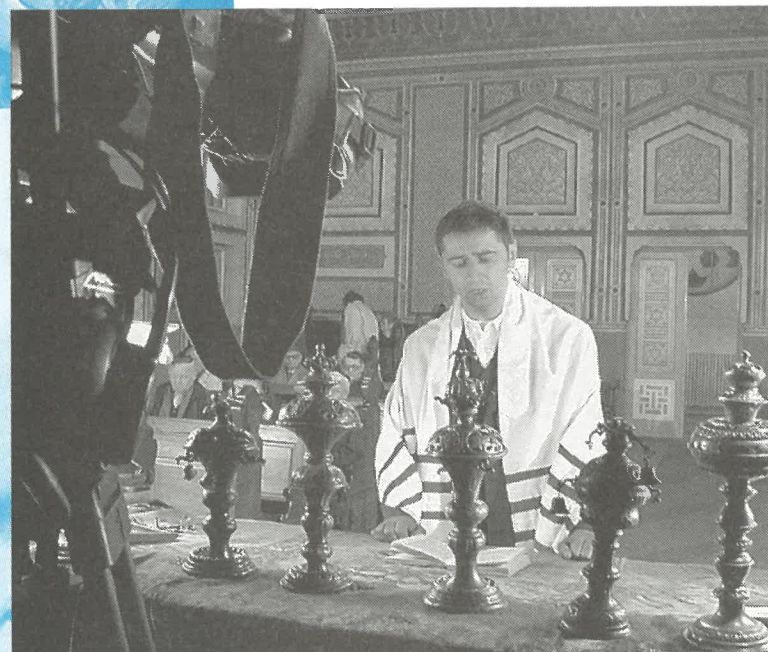


A grandmother confronts the question she fears most from her young granddaughter. She makes a risky decision that could change history.

FOLLOWED BY:

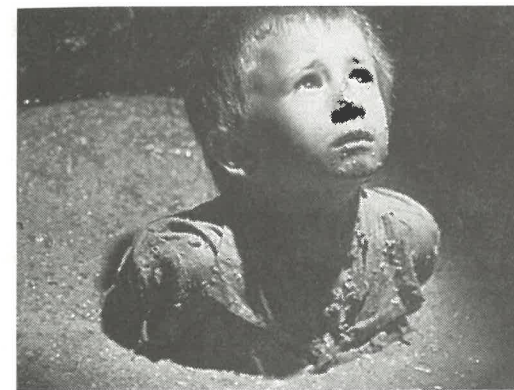
El Último Sephardi

("The Last Sephardic Jew")
West Coast Premiere
Spain 2003, Beta, 90 min.
Spanish/Ladino w/subtitles
Directed by Miguel Ángel Nieto



Eliezer Papo, a young rabbi from Sarajevo who teaches Ladino in Jerusalem, embarks on a lyrical journey tracing the roots of Sephardic Spanish, a forlorn language, from Salonika to Sarajevo, through Curacao, Istanbul and Toledo, the spiritual capital of Biblical "Sepharad." He brings along the mythical key that Jews took with them when they left Spain hoping to one day return home. *The Last Sephardic Jew* is a visually sumptuous walking tour through the remains of Judeo-Spanish culture — a precious heritage on the verge of disappearing.

Special Guest: Miguel Ángel Nieto, filmmaker and journalist
Sponsored by American Sephardi Federation with Sephardic House in New York, Seattle Sephardic Ladino Heritage Group, and University of Washington Division of Spanish and Portuguese Studies



5:00 PM
**Imaginary Witness:
Hollywood and the Holocaust**

Seattle Premiere
USA 2004, 35mm, 92 min.
Directed by Daniel Anker

Emmy-award-winning and Oscar-nominated director Daniel Anker explores the ways American movies shape our perception of the Holocaust. *Imaginary Witness* weaves together fascinating clips from dozens of Hollywood films, many rare or forgotten. First-hand accounts and interviews with leading directors such as Steven Spielberg and Sydney Lumet, take us on a 60-year journey through Hollywood and television's noble and misguided efforts to dramatize the horrors of Nazi Germany and the resulting catastrophe. Despite the gravity of the subject, Anker has created an enormously entertaining and enlightening film that relives Hollywood's early attempts at addressing the threat of Fascism from Chaplin's self-financed classic *The Great Dictator* to B-list bombs like *Confessions of a Nazi Spy*.

Co-sponsored by Glazer's Camera, University of Washington Jewish Studies Program, and The Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center

7:30 PM
Backseat Bingo (animated short)

USA 2004, DVD, 5 min.
Directed by Liz Blazer

Sexy Senior Seeks Same. *Backseat Bingo* is a humorous and poignant animated documentary about the romantic lives of senior citizens who endearingly challenge preconceptions about aging and gusto in the Golden Years.

FOLLOWED BY:

Le Grand Role

Seattle Premiere
France 2004, 35mm, 89 min.
French/Yiddish w/subtitles
Directed by Steve Suissa

Laughter and tears vie for top billing in this bittersweet film about a band of Jewish friends Maurice, Sami, Simon, Elie and Edouard, all unknown actors in their late 30s still waiting for their big break. One day, a famous American director (Peter Coyote) comes to Paris searching for the perfect Shylock to lead a Yiddish adaptation of *The Merchant of Venice*. When Maurice lands the coveted role, he hurries home to tell wife Perla, who has some unexpected news for him: she is gravely ill. When the part is given away to an American celebrity instead of Maurice,

he does not have the heart to tell his wife the truth. With the help of his actor-friends, a farce ensues. Maurice plays the role of his life to protect Perla and make her proud.

Film Co-sponsored by
The Jewish Federation of
Greater Seattle and
Temple De Hirsch Sinai



Sunday,
March 13

CineSama
Theatre



Monday,
March 14

FILMTalks!

8:00 AM – 3:00PM

Cinezama
Theatre

Free Senior
Matinee:

11:30 AM
Kline Galland Home
Residents and
Day Center Program
participants at
Kline Galland Home

Backseat Bingo

(animated short)
See film description under
Sunday, March 13th.

FOLLOWED BY:

*The Personals:
Improvisations on
Romance in the
Golden Years*

See film description at right

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FILMTalks! Donors: Albertson's, Bagel Oasis, Catering By Phyllis, Image Matters Promotions, Roxy's Deli, Helen R. Stusser

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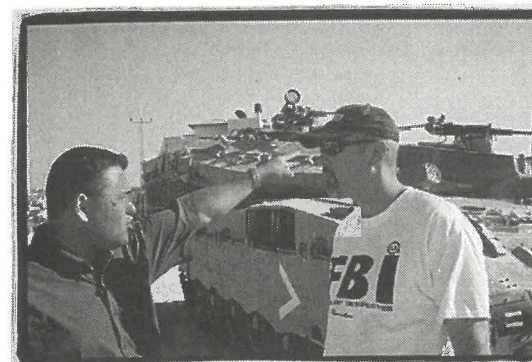
The American Jewish Committee of Greater Seattle is proud to support our youth and community, embrace diversity and stand strong against bigotry. We would like to thank the following sponsors:

FILMTalks! Sponsors:
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The Personals: Improvisations on Romance in the Golden Years

USA 1998, VHS, 37 min.
Directed by Keiko Ibi

When Keiko Ibi, an NYU film student from Tokyo, won the Academy Award for Best Short Documentary and surprised everyone in 1999, the Seattle Jewish Film Festival featured her film in our 2000 festival lineup. We are proud to re-present *The Personals* featuring a Jewish senior citizens' theatre group on New York's Lower East Side performing newspaper-style "personal ads" that describe their best assets and ideal mates. The cast members candidly address — both onstage and off — issues facing their generation, such as loneliness, health, and their continuing search for love and companionship.



6:30 PM

Behind Enemy Lines

Northwest Premiere
Israel 2004, Beta, 64 min.
Arabic, English, Hebrew w/subtitles
Directed by Dov Gil-Har

An Israeli police officer and a Palestinian journalist — once friends, now on bitterly divided sides of national conflict — reunite for an emotional journey through Jerusalem and the landscape of the Intifada, as each attempts to convince the other of his own truth. Benny Hernes, a captain in the Israeli police force, first met journalist Adnan Joulani on a peace mission to Japan four years ago, and they formed a surprising and optimistic friendship. In the intervening time, however, a member of Adnan's family has been killed by settlers, and Adnan's frustration rises as he covers the conflict daily as a journalist. Benny has meanwhile become a settler and trains special Israeli forces to combat Palestinian militants. In Dov Gil-Har's moving and compassionate documentary, Benny and Adnan agree to meet again, spending four days traveling to locations that each has chosen to represent his own reality. From the Holocaust Memorial of Yad Vashem and the Temple Mount, to the Jenin refugee camp, Benny and Adnan struggle to find a way past the violence that separates them, and for a moment to see through the other's eyes.

Film introduced by Yaffa Maritz

Post-film discussion led by Opening of the Heart, a non-profit organization that facilitates mutual understanding across cultures through the arts and education
Co-sponsored by Brit Tzedek v'Shalom (The Jewish Alliance for Justice & Peace) and Yaffa Maritz

9:00 PM

Avant-garde Jewish Wedding (short)

West Coast Premiere
Canada 2004, Beta, 7 min.
Directed by Melissa Shiff



When artist Melissa Shiff married Louis Kaplan, a professor and photo historian, they reinvigorated and reinvented the Jewish ritual of marriage using new technologies. Video projection on her wedding dress and chuppah turned Schiff into a holographic bride and the wedding avant-garde.

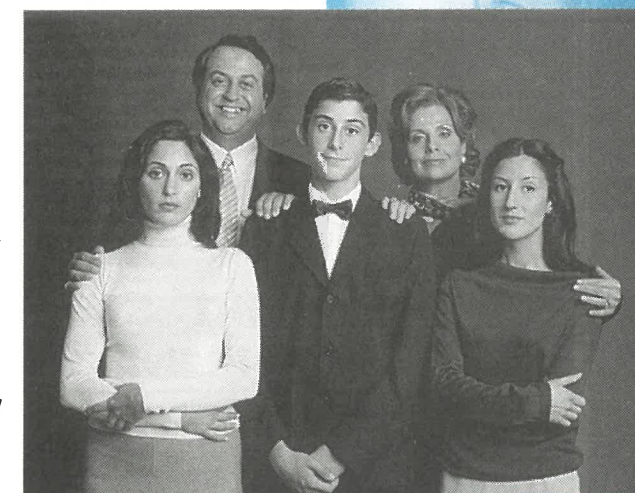
FOLLOWED BY:

Suzie Gold

West Coast Premiere
United Kingdom 2004, 35mm, 93 min.
Directed by Ric Cantor

Suzie Gold has been called *My Big Fat Jewish Wedding* for the Bridget Jones crowd. Set in an insular nouveau-riche north London community, this romantic comedy features a whole *mishpokhe* of quirky and colorful — albeit somewhat stereotypical — characters. At the center is Suzie, played with lovable charm by American actress Summer Phoenix, as a twenty-something Jewish princess who suffers an identity crisis after her sister becomes engaged. Under pressure to tie the knot with a "nice Jewish boy," Suzie begins to question the traditions that have comfortably defined her. Her doting but dysfunctional family desperately wants her to be happy, but only according to their exacting (double) standards. Will she marry their dream Jewish son-in-law or the unsanctioned "goy wonder" she's been seeing on the sly? Suzie must decide whether to follow the path laid out for her or forge uncharted territory.

Co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle's Blue Knot Technology Initiative and Young Leadership Division, and Temple De Hirsch Sinai



Monday,
March 14

Cinezama
Theatre

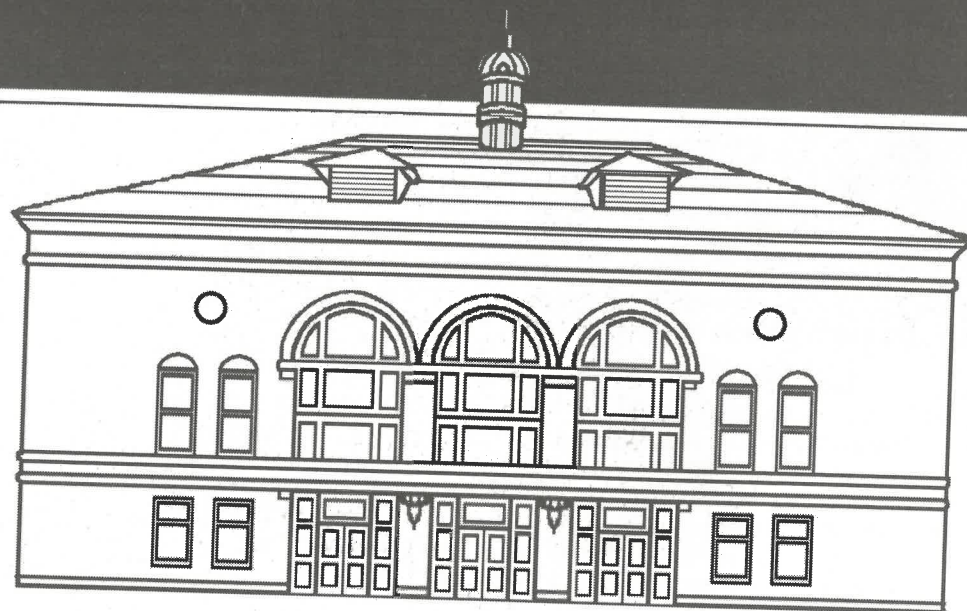
Special Event:

7:30 – 8:30 PM

Pre-film

Reception at
Apartment Bistro,
2226 First Avenue.

13



BROADWAY PERFORMANCE HALL

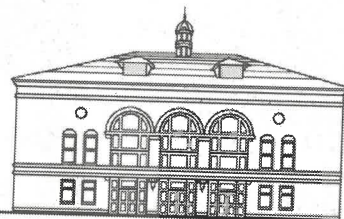
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6:30 PM

Miss Entebbe

Israel 2002, 35mm, 80 min.
Hebrew w/subtitles
Directed by Omri Levy

This coming-of-age story is set against the 1976 Palestinian hijacking of an Israeli airplane en route to the Entebbe airport in Uganda. Thirteen-year-old Noa is convinced she can free

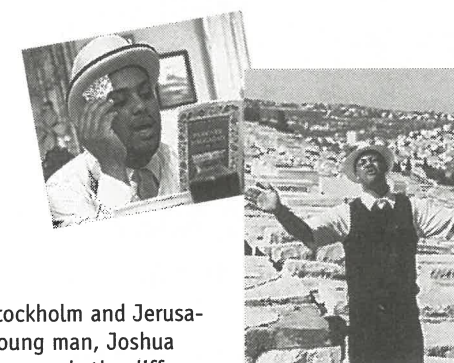
her friend's mom — the woman she most admires — by kidnapping an Arab boy from the neighborhood and making demands to authorities. As Noa and her gang of friends mimic adult behavior that mirrors the international crisis, they unwittingly enter the turmoil of political conflict and hatred. Their dangerous adventure quickly escalates despite the deepening mutual affection growing between the children and their captor. Noa must find a solution not in the violence of the adult world but in her own heart.

Sponsored by Temple B'nai Torah

8:30 PM

Keep on Walking: Joshua Nelson, The Jewish Gospel Singer

West Coast Premiere
USA/Sweden 2001, Beta, 53 min.
Directed by Tana Ross & Freke Vuijst



Filmed on location in Newark, NJ, St. Louis, Stockholm and Jerusalem, this film celebrates how an exceptional young man, Joshua Nelson, an African American who is Jewish, transcends the differences between races and faiths through music. Nelson has created a new sound that blends Jewish liturgical and African American spiritual styles. A Hebrew teacher when he's not on the road, Nelson performs all around the world, for presidents and prime ministers, with musical legends including Wynton Marsalis and Aretha Franklin, and in stadiums, churches and synagogues. This film and a concert by our special guest is sure to have you clapping your hands and dancing in the aisles.

Special Guest and Musical Performance by Joshua Nelson
Sponsored by Seattle Office of Civil Rights

Temple B'nai Torah
is proud to sponsor
"Miss Entebbe"
Tuesday, March 15 at 6:30pm
at the
Seattle Jewish Film Festival
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 City of Seattle Greg Nickels, Mayor

Tuesday,
March 15

Broadway
Performance
Hall



Free Senior
Matinee:

1:30 PM
For Summit House
Residents
and their Guests at
Summit at First Hill

Backseat Bingo

(animated short)
See film description under
Sunday, March 13th.

FOLLOWED BY:

The Personals:
Improvisations on
Romance in the
Golden Years

See film description under
Monday, March 14th.

Wednesday,
March 16

Broadway
Performance
Hall

4:00 PM

Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness

Northwest Premiere

USA 2001, Beta, 103 min.

A film by Diane Estelle Vicari and Rob Kirk

The history of World War II tells many remarkable tales of heroism and courage. One of the least known yet most compelling and inspirational is that of the "Japanese Schindler," Chiune Sugihara. In the face of the Nazi onslaught in Europe, at great risk to his career and life, he single-handedly saved more than 2,000 lives using his power as a diplomat to rescue fleeing Jewish refugees. This award-winning documentary tells the remarkable story of Sugihara and his family, and chronicles the fascinating relationship between the Japanese and the Jews during the 1930s and '40s. *Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness* is a celebration of the selfless humanitarian spirit and a testament that one person can make a difference.



6:30 PM

The Man Who Loved Haugesund

Northwest Premiere

Norway 2003, Beta, 59 min.

Norwegian w/subtitles

Directed by Jon Haukelund and Tore Volla



When Germany invaded Norway in 1940, topping the Nazis' most-wanted-list was Moritz Rabinowitz, a successful Polish clothier and the only Jew who lived in Haugesund, a small Norwegian fishing village. Against all odds, Rabinowitz built several hugely successful clothing stores that became the bedrock of Haugesund's business community. Still, he remained a social outsider to the town's business elite and his employees alike. Writing weekly newspaper columns, Rabinowitz became an admirably outspoken critic of Hitler's regime. Though some harbored him, oblivious to their own latent anti-Semitism to this day, the townspeople still claim that it was Rabinowitz's own greed that led to his capture. The town's broad complicity in his tragic fate offers a deeply unsettling portrait of entrenched anti-Semitism.

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8:30 PM

A Different War (short)

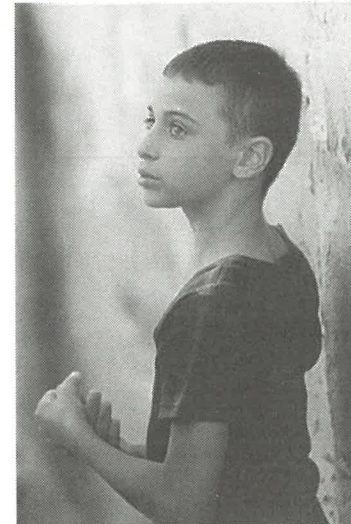
Northwest Premiere

Israel 2004, Beta, 15 min.

Hebrew w/subtitles

Directed by Nadav Gal

Nuni, a fourth-grade student from a frontier neighborhood, has been chosen to play King David in the school play. Yet deep down, Nuni grapples with his desire to play a different role onstage, within masculine culture and amidst the Intifada. Another award-winning short written and directed by a student of the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School in Jerusalem.



FOLLOWED BY:

The Tollbooth

West Coast Premiere

USA 2004, Beta, 80 min.

Directed by Debra Kirschner

Marla Sokoloff and Tovah Feldshuh star in this comic, coming-of-age film about a Brooklyn Jewish family whose three daughters each find divergent ways to question the values of their traditional parents. A struggling painter just out of art school, Sarabeth's (Sokoloff) first revolutionary act is to move across the river to Manhattan. Even though she is less than ten miles from home and lives in her sister's walk-in closet, she feels like an immigrant pioneer. Though she would like to rebel, Sarabeth is forced instead to learn from her family — her well-meaning but loud-about-it mother, Ruthie (Feldshuh), her Holocaust-obsessed philosopher-quoting father, her lesbian medical-student sister and her other self-sacrificing sister. The question is never whether or not to compromise, but how much. The family learns, rebels, fights and finally embraces their differences in this highly entertaining ensemble film.



Special Guest: Debra Kirschner, director

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Thursday,
March 17

**Broadway
Performance
Hall**

**Free Seniors
55+
Matinee &
Lunch:**

**11:30 AM
at Stroum Jewish
Community Center**

Watermarks

See film description under
Sunday, March 20th.

Ages 55+
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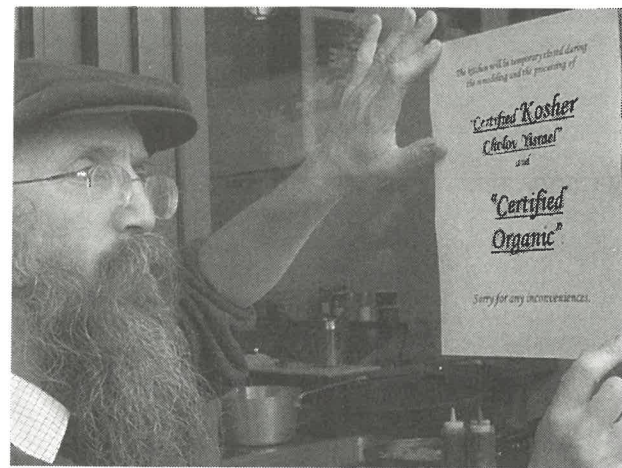
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6:30 PM
Kosher Cop (short)
Northwest Premiere
US 2003, Beta, 4 min.
Directed by Leah Wolchok

Kosher Cop portrays the hectic life of a disabled Berkeley rabbi who *kashers* restaurants like Krispy Kreme Donuts with a blowtorch and *mikveh* water. His unusual job fuses tradition with technology.

**FOLLOWED BY:
The Chosen People**

Northwest Premiere
Canada 2004, Beta, 68 min.
Some Hebrew and Russian
w/subtitles
Directed by Igal Hecht

The Chosen People takes us inside one of the most controversial and chilling alternative religious movements today, Messianic Judaism. Also known as Jews for Jesus, its followers preach and proselytize that Jews can accept Jesus as the messiah and keep their Jewish identity. Having grown in popularity in recent years, there are over 100 synagogues in Israel and thousands across Europe and North America. The film also gives voice to counter-missionary efforts such as Jews for Judaism, an Orthodox grassroots retort. Through interviews with converts to the movement in Toronto, Hungary and Israel, director Igal Hecht does not demonize those passionate about their faith but offers a sympathetic window into a little-discussed yet growing phenomenon.

Special Guest: Igal Hecht, director/producer
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8:45 PM
**Nuclear Physicist
Sings to the 70s** (animated short)

West Coast Premiere
USA 2002, Beta, 4 min.
Directed by Hanan Harcol

"The Nuclear Physicist" and his wife have an argument in the car with Hanan, their son, in the back seat. Now an adult, animator Hanan Harcol, illustrates and echoes the bickering of his endearing Israeli parents.



**FOLLOWED BY:
To Take a Wife**

West Coast Premiere
Israel/France 2004, 35mm, 97 min.
Hebrew w/subtitles
Directed by Ronit Elkabetz and
Shlomi Elkabetz

Co-directed by Shlomi Elkabetz and his sister Ronit Elkabetz (*Late Marriage*, SJFF 2002, *Alila*, SJFF 2004), who takes the lead role and can also be seen in *Or (Mon Tresor)* at SJFF this year, *To Take A Wife* is a haunting, claustrophobic portrait of a loveless marriage held together in a vice of religious and social convention. In the confines of a small apartment building in Haifa, 1979, Vivian is surrounded by men from her family and community who desperately try and convince her that she doesn't need the divorce from her traditionalist husband, Elyahoo (Simon Abkarian) that she craves. They tell her he is a good guy, he doesn't beat her; why should she complain? She stays, but so does her pained expression. She tends to the demands of her four children, acts as hairdresser for friends and neighbors in her apartment building, and has cold, confrontational conversations with Elyahoo. When an old lover calls her, there is a suggestion she may escape the bland authority of her husband. With an emotional sincerity reminiscent of John Cassavetes, *To Take A Wife* is a startling, quietly devastating melodrama. Winner of the 2004 Venice International Film Festival Audience Award and the 2004 Hamburg Film Festival Critics Award—Special Mention.

Sponsored by the Center for Career Alternatives



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220 KANE HALL 7:30 PM



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jsis.artsci.washington.edu

**Saturday,
March 19**

**Broadway
Performance
Hall**

Special Event:

**8:30-10:30 PM
Complimentary
Reception and
No-host Bar
at Broadway Grill
314 Broadway E**



7:30 PM

Walk on Water

Israel 2003, 35mm, 104 min.
Hebrew/German w/subtitles
Directed by Eytan Fox

Eytan Fox returns to SJFF following the success of *Yossi & Jagger* with a colorful contemporary thriller set in Tel Aviv and Berlin. A hardnosed Mossad assassin, Eyal, played by Lior Ashkenazi (*Late Marriage*, SJFF

2002) tracks an elusive Nazi war criminal and poses as an Israeli tour guide for his freethinking grandchildren. As their friendship grows, what begins as a deceptive mission dissolves into a journey through conflicting ideologies and histories, changing Eyal's view of the world and his life's mission forever. This captivating thriller delves into the complex relationships between Israelis, Germans and Palestinians, gays and straights.

Sponsored by the Consulate General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest



9:45 PM

Or (Mon Trezor)

West Coast Premiere
Israel 2004, 35mm, 100 min.
Hebrew w/subtitles
Directed by Keren Yedaya

Seventeen-year-old Or is determined to rescue her mother, Ruthie, from a dangerous and debilitating life as a prostitute. Or tries to hold her family together by washing dishes in a cafe, collecting deposit bottles, occasionally attending school, and finding her mom a job as a cleaning woman. But when Ruthie (Ronit Elkabetz) returns home badly beaten after a night on the streets, Or decides to take drastic measures to change their lives. Director Keren Yedaya draws from her work with Tel Aviv's

disadvantaged youth and former prostitutes to paint a gritty, heartbreaking picture of a mother and daughter struggling against extreme poverty. Winner of the 2004 Cannes Film Festival Camera d'Or (Best First Film) Award and Cannes Critics Week Grand Prize.



Warning: Mature content — nudity, sexually explicit situations and graphic violence.

Sponsored by the Consulate General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest

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Sunday,
March 20

Broadway
Performance
Hall

Bagel Brunch:
"Breakfast of
Champions"

9:30-10:30 AM

Brunch sponsored by
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Oy!
Such a Feast!

11:30 AM

Watermarks

Seattle Premiere
Israel 2004, Beta, 84 min.
Some Hebrew w/subtitles
Directed by Yaron Zilberman

Watermarks is the story of the champion women swimmers of the legendary Jewish sports club, Hakoah Vienna. Hakoah ("strength" in Hebrew) was founded in 1909 in response to the notorious Aryan Paragraph, forbidding Austrian sports clubs from accepting Jewish athletes. Its founders were eager to popularize athleticism among a community renowned for great minds but considered alien to physical prowess. Hakoah rapidly grew into one of Europe's biggest athletic clubs achieving astonishing success in diverse sports arenas. In the 1930s, Hakoah's best-known triumphs came from its women swimmers, who dominated national competitions in Austria. After the political unification of Nazi Germany and Austria in 1938, the Nazis shut down the club but the swimmers managed to flee the country before the war broke out, thanks to an escape operation organized by Hakoah's functionaries. Sixty-five years later, director Yaron Zilberman meets the members of the women's swim team in their homes around the world and arranges for a reunion of their beloved club in their old swimming pool in Vienna. Their journey evokes memories of youth, femininity and strengthens lifelong bonds. Told by the swimmers, now in their eighties, *Watermarks* is about a group of young girls with a passion for excellence. It is the saga of seven outstanding athletes who still swim daily as they age with grace. *The New York Times* calls *Watermarks*, "a moving documentary that approaches the Holocaust from a fresh, intimate perspective."

Exhibit of Hakoah photographs and memorabilia
Film sponsored by Hadassah, Seattle Chapter



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1:00 PM

Finding Eléazar

West Coast Premiere
USA 2002, Beta, 80 min.
French libretto w/subtitles
Directed by Paula Heil Fisher

Opera lovers will especially enjoy Paula Heil Fisher's documentary, which follows American tenor Neil Shicoff as he prepares for the role of his career in the 1999 revival of the French opera *La Juive* (*The Jewess*).

Created in 1835 by librettist Eugène Scribe and composer Jacques Fromental Halévy, the opera enjoyed success throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries until it was banned by the Nazis in 1936 and disappeared from the world stage. The opera, which tells the story of Eléazar, a Jewish jeweler, and his family who must renounce their faith or be killed, was not performed again until 1999, when the Vienna State Opera staged a production as a vehicle for Shicoff. Not only is *Finding Eléazar* a film about the making of a controversial opera, but also the making of a stirring music video by academy-award-winning director Sidney Lumet. In both, the charismatic Shicoff grapples with performing a Shylockian character for 21st-century audiences.

Special Guest Panel, "Staging The Jew": Peter Kazaras, tenor, stage director and frequent Seattle Opera performer; Pamela Lavitt, SJFF 2005 Curator; Perry Lorenzo, Education Director, Seattle Opera; Julie Mirel, mezzo-soprano; Aaron Posner, director of Seattle Repertory Theatre's *The Chosen* with guests; and Rabbi Rob Toren, Seattle Opera tenor and Samis Foundation Grants Director. Moderated by James S. Rogers.

Sponsored by Seattle Opera, The American String Project, and Washington State Jewish Historical Society
Media Sponsor: KING FM

5:00 PM

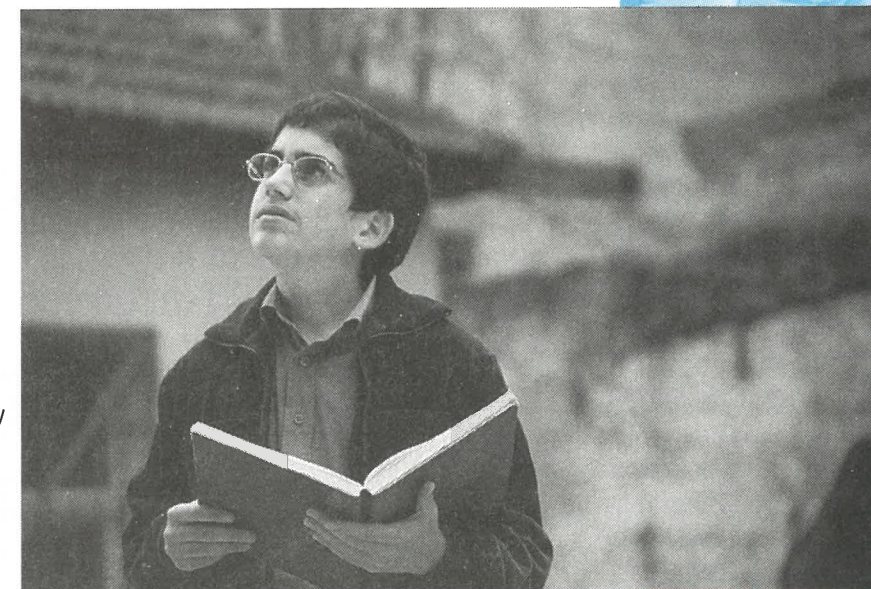
Nina's Tragedies

Israel 2003, 35mm, 110 min.
Hebrew w/subtitles
Directed by Savi Gabizon

Winner of 11 Israeli Academy Awards (including Best Picture, Director and Screenplay) *Nina's Tragedies* is a bitter-sweet comedy about a Tel Aviv teenager, his turbulent life and attraction to his beautiful but emotionally fragile Aunt Nina (Ayelet Zurer). Fourteen-year-old Nadiv details in his journal an emotionally turbulent six-month period when he is sent to live with his sexy aunt, following the untimely death of her husband and during an affair with the man who relayed the tragic news to her. Nadiv is subsequently reunited with his estranged ultra-Orthodox father, abandoned by his best friend and unexpectedly stumbles into adulthood. Profound, whimsical, sexy and surprising, *Nina's Tragedies* explores the tenuous but fierce connections between lovers, parents and children.

Warning: Mature content — nudity and sexually explicit situations

Sponsored by AIPAC



Sunday,
March 20

Broadway
Performance
Hall

Special Event:
Post-film
Special Guest Panel,
"Staging The Jew"

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MAY 13-15

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A Concert Performance

7:30 PM

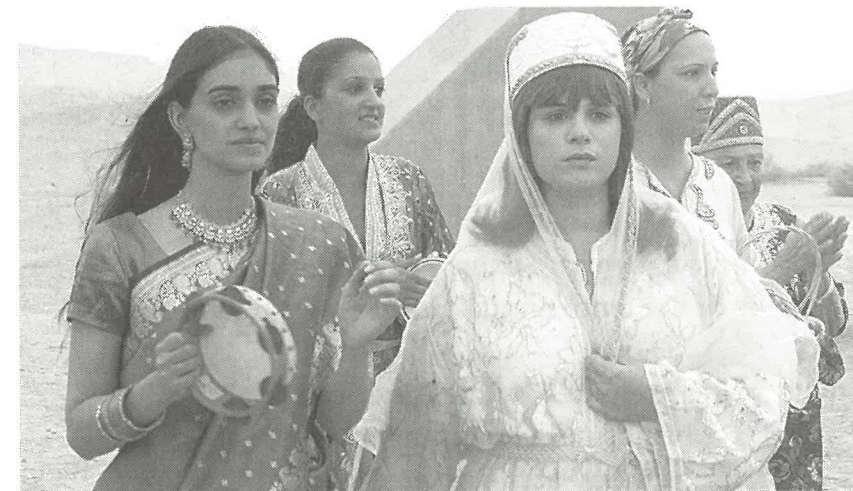
Turn Left at the End of the World

Seattle Premiere

Israel 2004, 35mm, 110 min.

Hebrew/French w/subtitles

Directed by Avi Nesher



One of the most successful Israeli films of the last decade, *Turn Left at the End of the World* features an international cast of French, Indian and Israeli actors. The year is 1969. Into a small town in the Israeli desert, inhabited mostly by Moroccan immigrants, come a few Indian families — who arrive in Israel seeking a better life. Not only do the Indians end up in a place distant from the mythical “West” they sought leaving home — they also find themselves embroiled in a culture war with the passionate and temperamental Moroccans — who consider themselves “French” despite being viewed as Israel’s swarthy outsiders and look down on the new darker-skinned Indian settlers. The reserved and quiet Indians, by contrast, consider themselves “British” and the Moroccans uncouth ruffians. In order to assert their imperial identity, the Indians put together a rag-tag cricket team, which the Moroccans do their utmost to disrupt. Much hilarity ensues as old enemies cross cultural minefields while two teenage girls, a Moroccan and an Indian discover an intimate friendship with the backdrop of the Sixties sexual revolution blazing in the desert heat.



Warning: Mature content — nudity and sexually explicit situations

Film introduced by Professor Gad Barzilai, University of Washington Political Science and Law, Jackson School of International Studies

Special Guest: Tamar Akov, Cultural Attache at Consulate General of Israel

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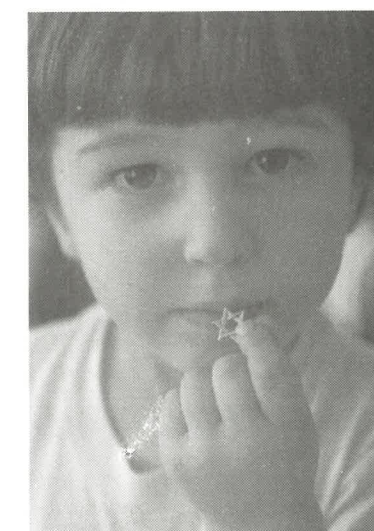
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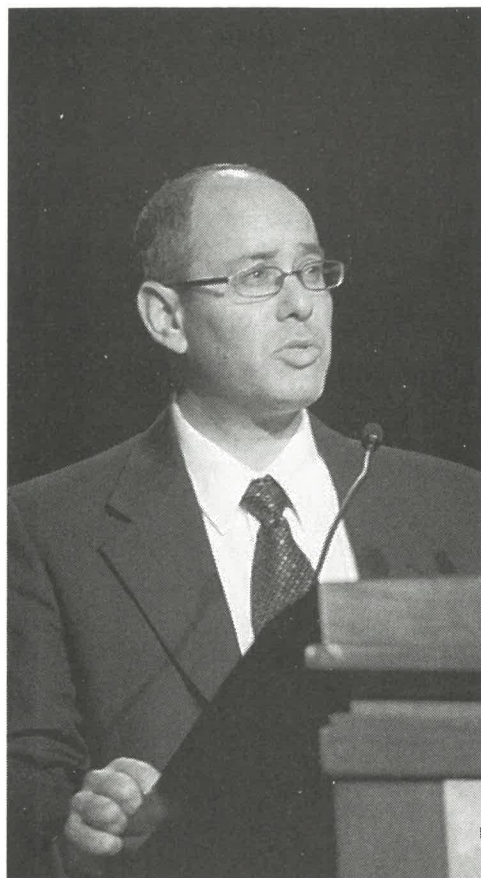
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Shalom,

It is with great joy that I extend my greetings to the attendees of the tenth annual Seattle Jewish Film Festival.

This festival, presented by the American Jewish Committee, brings our community closer together by introducing so many of the diverse cultures that are a part of the Jewish family. The films from Israel in this year's festival are particularly interesting as they depict the many forms a Jewish life can take in our homeland.

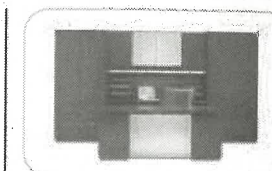
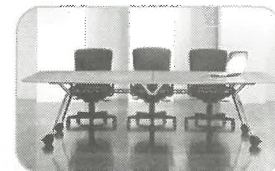
In celebration and tragedy, triumph and loss, we encounter through film the range of experiences that have formed the Jewish spirit. The issues raised in this year's selections are important now more than ever in our ever present struggle to maintain identity and continuity in our world.

I send my best wishes to all of you and a warm greeting to the Washington state chapter of the American Jewish Committee for their important work on behalf of Jewish life and Israel.

Sincerely,

David Akov
Consul General of Israel
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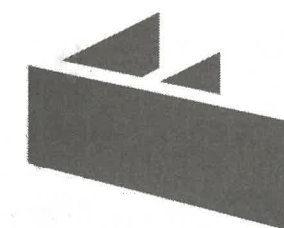
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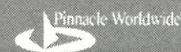
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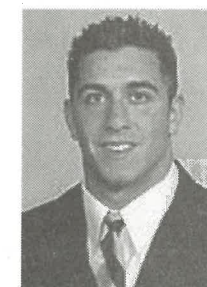
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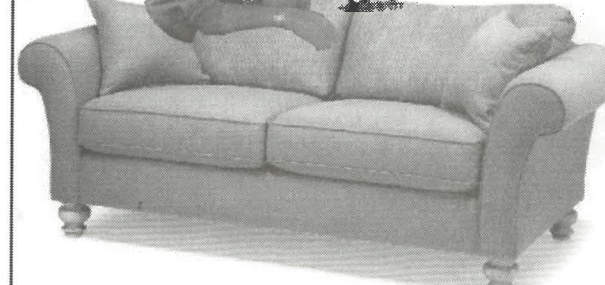
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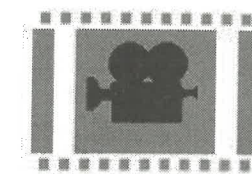
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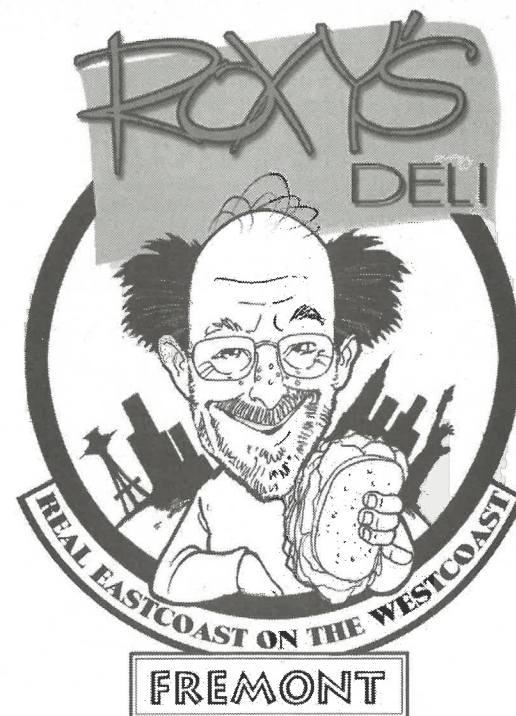
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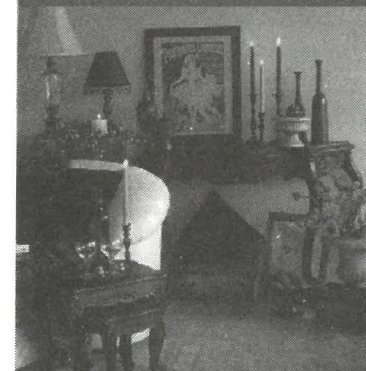
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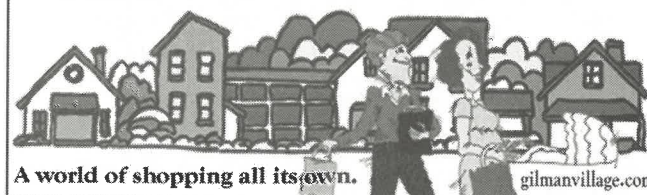
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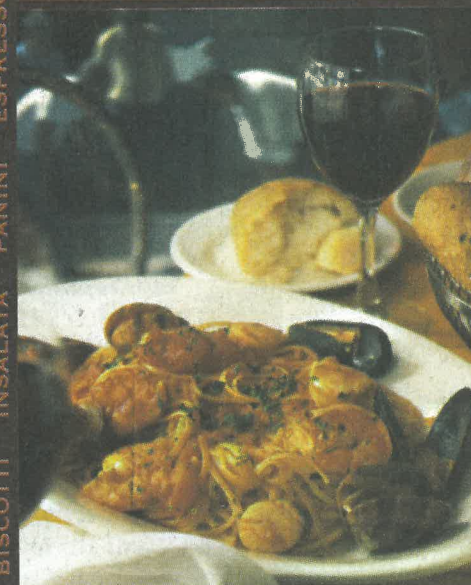


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