

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

11th ANNUAL **Seattle Jewish**
Film Festival

March 5, 2006 • 2 PM • Premier of "Fateless" • Pacific Place Cinema • 600 Pine Street



March 11-19th, 2006
FILM FESTIVAL WEEK
Museum of History
and Industry

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The AJC Seattle Jewish Film Festival

36 Films...18 Countries...10 Days!!!

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Travel with the American Jewish Committee through 18 countries in 10 days. Our Seattle Jewish Film Festival begins its 11th season with 36 powerful films to educate and entertain—and with many changes.

CHANGES are evident in the venues this year. We began a week in advance of the actual festival with the VIP event at Il Fornaio and the premiere of the award-winning film "Fateless" at the Pacific Place Cinema. The festival now resumes at The Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI). We are thrilled with the cooperation MOHAI has shown us, with the flexibility this facility allows us for the entire week AND the free and accessible parking for all of you.

CHANGES in our programs include our first-ever family program on Sunday March 19 with films for all ages from preschool through college, and many with amazing musical content for all to enjoy. Of course, our Senior Adult program continues again this year at the SJCC bringing seniors from The Summit, Kline Galland Home, and other facilities around the area.

CHANGES also mean additional community support. SJFF welcomes more than 65 community partners and sponsors this year. We are proud to engage the entire community and we strive to represent its totality in our film selection.

CHANGES are happening to FilmTalks, our nationally acclaimed anti-bigotry and cultural-diversity education program for high schools students. This year, we've extended the invitation to Bellevue high schools. Around 300 students are expected to attend at MOHAI on March 31st.

CHANGES abound as AJC has worked to integrate SJFF more fully with its other programs. The combined AJC/SJFF benefits package that many of you now enjoy is in recognition of this unity of purpose. Our film festival fulfills the goal of enriching the quality of American Jewish life and it also allows for bridge-building with other ethnic and religious groups.

The only aspect of the festival that ISN'T CHANGING this year is the superb quality of the films! Among the 36 films, many have received awards and one has been nominated for an Oscar. AJC's gift to Seattle just keeps getting better!

The successful festival planning this year was facilitated by the co-chairs who worked FAR beyond their job descriptions: Moshe Dunie and Karen Hudesman. A special thanks to them and to the AJC/SJFF staff who also worked tirelessly: Julie Hammer Mahdavi, Pamela Lavitt, Robert Mahdavi, Salome Mahdavi, Andrea Walker and Rabbi Anson Laytner.

Lastly, we want to thank you, our audience, volunteers, and supporters. We hope you will peruse the program throughout the week, note our community partners and advertisers and give them your special thanks by visiting their places of business.

Leslie Rosen
President
Greater Seattle Chapter, AJC

Julie Hammer Mahdavi
Seattle Jewish Film Festival Director

Pamela Lavitt
Film & Program Manager

Robert Mahdavi
Operations & Web Master

Salome Mahdavi
Volunteer Coordinator

Poster Design: **Stacy Stutz** Program Design: **Susan Beardsley, JT News**



Dear AJC members and friends,

This year, the American Jewish Committee is marking the centennial of its founding. Since 1906, the AJC has brought people of diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds together to address the pressing issues of the day and, in so doing, promote democracy, pluralism and mutual understanding.

In our world today, riven by religious and political extremism, the mission of the American Jewish Committee is more important than ever because Jewish survival is dependent on the voice of reason, moderation and respect ultimately winning the day. Whether at home or abroad, AJC is that voice, building bridges of understanding and cooperation wherever it has a presence—and AJC has 32 offices nationwide and 25 posts overseas, including Jerusalem, Brussels, Geneva, and Mumbai.

The Seattle Chapter's Seattle Jewish Film Festival plays a vital role in fulfilling AJC's overall mission in the Pacific Northwest.

Your film festival portrays the contemporary Jewish experience both at home and abroad, in Israel and in the countries of the Diaspora. As such it is an important tool in educating both the Jewish and general Jewish communities about the diverse nature of modern Jewry, and it does a wonderful job of bringing together Seattle's diverse Jewish community. In addition, because it views the human experience through the lens of Jewish particularity, it creates bonds of mutual understanding among members of the Seattle Jewish community and people from the larger community who attend as well.

The Seattle Jewish Film Festival enters its second decade just as AJC commemorates the conclusion of its first century. I salute the efforts of the Seattle Chapter for all its work in community-building, whether through the medium of film, or through its work with the consular corps, or through its pioneering interfaith and interethnic programs.

In the end, we should all remember, regardless of our differences, we are one human family and our collective destiny hinges on our mutual recognition of this essential truth.

Enjoy the festival!

Sincerely,

David A. Harris
Executive Director
American Jewish Committee



Consulate General
of Israel
Pacific Northwest

Shalom,

Please accept my warmest greetings as you kick off the eleventh annual Seattle Jewish Film Festival.

The American Jewish Committee's continuous support of this undertaking strengthens our links between the Pacific Northwest, Israel, and the rest of the Diaspora through the power of film. The films depicting Israel in this year's festival are especially interesting in their range of political and ethnic perspectives.



The abundance of Jewish film festivals around the world continues to show that Jewish culture is flourishing. As Israel's film industry expands, I am happy to see more of its productions in these festivals, including here in Seattle.

Thank you, the Greater Seattle Chapter of the American Jewish Committee for being such a strong supporter of Jewish life and Israel. I send my best wishes to all of you for your commitment to Jewish life in the state of Washington.

Sincerely,

David Akov
Consul General of Israel
Pacific Northwest Region

Photo by Jack Hazut

We are the American Jewish Committee

The American Jewish Committee has been working since 1906 to safeguard and strengthen Jews and Jewish life worldwide by promoting democratic and pluralistic societies that respect the dignity of all peoples.

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25 Overseas Posts

Africa Institute . Asia and Pacific Rim Institute . Project Interchange
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In Seattle

Seattle Jewish Film Festival . Luncheon Lecture Series . Quarterly
Newsletters . Intergroup Relations Committee . Interfaith Issues . Block
Student Human Relations Awards . FILMTalks . Domestic Policy Issues . Human
Relations Awards . Interethnic Issues . International Relations
Committee . Israel & Mideast Issues . Save Darfur
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We invite you to join us for this ten day journey of our eleventh season. We will transport you from Seward Park to Siberia, from Gig Harbor to the Gaza, and from Issaquah to Iran. We gather together to watch larger-than-life images flicker across the screen that will not only entertain, but will challenge your assumptions and shock you out of complacency. Just as our festival has grown over the past eleven years, so has the diversity of our audience. We are proud of both achievements. No matter how you define yourself or how you define Jewish film, there is a place for you here. Thank you to our committees, our generous supporters, our creative and committed staff, Rabbi Anson Laytner, Andrea Walker, our AJC Board of Directors, and to all of our dedicated volunteers and especially, our families!

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Moshe Dunie and Karen Hudesman

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Welcome to the AJC Seattle Jewish Film Festival!

Julie

Julie Hammer Mahdavi
Director, AJC Seattle Jewish Film Festival

Photo by Jack Hazut

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2006 Schedule at a Glance

	FILM	TIME	LOCATION	
Saturday March 11	OPENING NIGHT FILM, DESSERT EXTRAVAGANZA & MUSEUM TOUR			
	<i>Live and Become</i>	7:00 PM	MOHAI	☺
	<i>Live and Become</i>	9:50 PM	MOHAI	
Sunday March 12	<i>Forgotten Refugees</i>	11:00 AM	MOHAI	
	<i>10 Days in Gaza</i>	1:30 PM	MOHAI	
	<i>A Cantor's Tale</i> with performance by Sasson	4:00 PM	MOHAI	☺
	<i>Sophie Scholl: The Final Days</i>	6:30 PM	MOHAI	
	<i>The Red Toy</i> (short) <i>Metallic Blues</i>	9:00 PM	MOHAI	
Monday March 13	<i>Esther's Book</i> (short) <i>The Syrian Bride</i>	6:30 PM	MOHAI	
	<i>Whisky</i>	8:45 PM	MOHAI	
	<i>Sister Rose's Passion</i> <i>Keep Not Silent (Ortho-Dykes)</i>	4:30 PM	MOHAI	
Tuesday March 14	<i>Christ in the City</i> (short) <i>Protocols of Zion</i>	6:30 PM	MOHAI	
	<i>Security Groove</i> (short) <i>Diameter of the Bomb</i>	9:00 PM	MOHAI	👤
	<i>Melting Siberia</i>	4:30 PM	MOHAI	
	<i>American Technion Students</i> (short) <i>39 Pounds of Love</i>	6:30 PM	MOHAI	
Wednesday March 15	<i>A Shabbos Mother</i> (short) <i>Avanim (Stones)</i>	8:30 PM	MOHAI	👤
	SENIOR ADULT LUNCH & FILM	12:00 PM	SJCC	☺
	<i>Esther's Book</i> (short) <i>Jews of Iran</i>			
Thursday March 16	<i>Today a Little Extra</i> , Premiere Performance of SJCC Jewish Theatre Company	5:15 PM	MOHAI	☺
	<i>Ushpizin (Holy Guests)</i>	6:30 PM	MOHAI	☺
	<i>Checking Out</i>	8:50 PM	MOHAI	
	<i>Campfire</i>	7:00 PM	MOHAI	
Saturday March 18	<i>My Fair Dad</i> (short) <i>Joy</i>	9:10 PM	MOHAI	👤
	MATZOH MOMMA BAGEL BRUNCH & ISRAELI DANCING	Brunch: 10:00 AM Film: 11:00 AM	MOHAI	
Sunday March 19	<i>Rashevski's Tango</i>		MOHAI	
	FAMILY FILM SERIES	1:00 PM	MOHAI	☺
	<i>Lion of Zion</i> (short)			
	<i>A Mitzvah Lesson for Mrs. Rosen</i> (short)			
	<i>Father's Day</i> (short)			
	<i>Becoming Rachel</i>			
	<i>"Berale, Berale"</i> (short) with performance by GefiltOfficial	3:00 PM	MOHAI	
	<i>Matisyahu</i> (short)			
	<i>Awake Zion</i>			
	<i>Schwartz Dynasty</i>	5:15 PM	MOHAI	👤
	CLOSING NIGHT & AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARDS CEREMONY	7:45 PM	MOHAI	
	<i>Christ in the City</i> (short)			
	<i>Alles auf Zucker! (Go for Zucker!)</i>			👤

Ratings Key:
All films PG-13
unless marked:

👤 = R-rating
☺ = All ages

MOHAI: Museum of History and Industry, 2700 24th East, Seattle SJCC: Stroum Jewish Community Center, 3801 East Mercer Way, Mercer Island

2:00 PM

Fateless

Northwest Premiere
Directed by: Lajos Koltai
Written by: Imre Kertész
Country/Year: Hungary, 2005
Language: Hungarian, German w/subtitles
Running Time: 140 minutes
Format: 35mm

Fateless is based on Nobel Prize-winner Imre Kertész's stunning novel about a Hungarian Jewish boy's experiences during and after Nazi occupation in Hungary. A typical teen, caught up in the daily dramas of adolescence, Gyru is deported to a series of distant concentration camps, where survival becomes a daily goal. Upon returning to Budapest, former friends urge him to "put the ordeal out of his mind," but he is left to ponder the meaning of his experiences alone. Hungary's official Best Foreign Language Film selection for the 2006 Academy Awards.

Dedicated by her son and SJFF 2006 co-chair, Moshe Dunie, in memory of Hedwig Dunie, who survived Auschwitz, and to her parents, sister, brother and niece who died there.



Sunday,
March 5

at
**Pacific Place
Cinemas**

600 Pine Street

Festival Week!



2 SCREENINGS:

7:00 PM: Film followed by Dessert Extravaganza Reception and museum tour for patrons, passholders and those with a \$50 combination film & reception ticket.

9:50 PM: Film only

Live and Become ☺ (Va, Vis et Deviens)

Northwest Premiere
Director: Radu Mihaileanu
Country/Year: France/Israel, 2004
Language: French, Hebrew, Amharic w/subtitles
Running Time: 143 min.
Format: 35mm

Live and Become is a sweeping epic about a boy's survival amidst the Ethiopian famine of the 1980's. In a crowded Sudanese refugee camp, American and Israel forces airlift thousands of Ethiopian Jews (Falashas) to Jerusalem during "Operation Moses." An African mother places her 7-year-old non-Jewish son among the evacuees to spare him a grim fate. In Tel Aviv, young Solomon is taken in by a French Sephardic family who rename him "Schlomo" to conceal his true identity. His feigned life takes its toll emotionally, and he must take bold steps to heal as he grows older. Winner of numerous International and Jewish Film Festival Audience Awards.

Special Events: Opening Night Dessert Extravaganza Reception, following the 7pm screening, in MOHAI's McCurdy Auditorium, for patrons, passholders and those with a \$50 combination film & dessert reception ticket only. Attendees are also invited to peruse MOHAI's new special exhibit, "Fashion at MOHAI," featuring the world-famous Theatre de la Mode fashions and sets from post-WWII Paris and famous French designers, plus miniature dolls and full-size couture fashions.

Sponsored by Hadassah, Seattle Chapter; Pacific Science Center; Sephardic Ladino Heritage Group and Tree of Life Books and Judaica.

Saturday,
March 11

Opening
Night
sponsored by
Martin Selig
at
MOHAI



11:00 AM

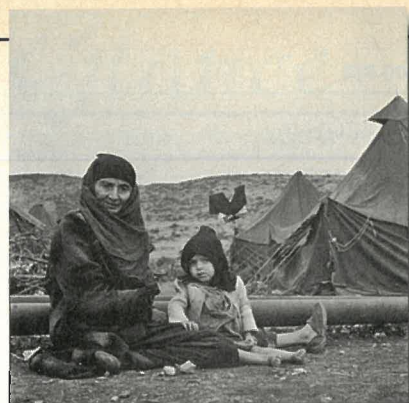
Forgotten Refugees

West Coast Premiere
Executive Producer/Filmmaker and Director: Ralph Avi Goldwasser and Michael Grynspan
Country/Year: USA/Israel, 2005
Language: English (occasional Hebrew subtitles)
47 min.; BetaSP

Forgotten Refugees explores the history and destruction of Middle Eastern Jewish communities, some of which existed for 2,500 years. Employing extensive testimony of survivors from Egypt, Yemen, Libya and Iraq, the film recounts the stories — of joy and of suffering — that nearly a million individuals have carried with them for so long. The film weaves personal stories with dramatic archival footage of rescue missions, exodus and resettlement, and analysis by contemporary scholars, to tell the story of the enormously rich cultures fleeing Jews left behind.

Special Guest: Rafi Finegold, Special Projects Manager at The David Project Center for Jewish Leadership who produced Forgotten Refugees with IsraTV.

Sponsored by Hillel, The Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle and Justice for Jews from Arab Lands.



1:30 PM

10 Days in Gaza

Northwest Premiere
Director: Dov Gil-Har
Country/Year: Israel, 2004
Language: Hebrew w/subtitles
65 min.; BetaSP

During the dramatic evacuation of Jewish settlements from the Gaza Strip, Israel's Channel 2 News had over 20 crews on the ground covering the historic event. Gil-Har's (*Behind Enemy Lines*, SJFF 2005) compiles some of the most compelling footage from the controversial evacuation and withdrawal that divided a nation and gave Jewish soldiers the difficult task of evicting Jewish settlers from their homes.

Special Guests: Israel's Channel 2 Evening News anchorman, Gadi Sukenik, discusses coverage of the Gaza pull-out with Professor Gad Barzilai, University of Washington Political Science and Law.

Sponsored by The Jewish Studies Program in The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies at The University of Washington and KUOW.

4:00 PM: Musical performance by Sasson, traditional Klezmer/Brazilian/Afro-Cuban

4:30 PM: Film

A Cantor's Tale ☺

Northwest Premiere
Director: Eric Greenberg Anjou
Country/Year: USA, 2005
Language: English
94 min.; DigiBeta

Cantor "Jackie" Mendelson takes us on an expressive journey through the golden days of *hazzanut* (Jewish liturgical music) when cantors in New York had chart-topping recordings, and fans thought of them as the Jewish Beatles or Rolling Stones. Mendelson goes back to his roots in Boro Park, the famous deli his father once owned, and visits synagogues and cantors that influenced him. The commanding sounds of cantorial song resound. With the help of colorful commentary by Alan Dershowitz and Jackie Mason, the film tells the story of one cantor's commitment to preserving and teaching traditional sacred music.

Dedicated in memory of Cantor Harry P. Silversmith from Shelley Silversmith Dillon and James Dillon.

Sponsored by KING-FM and Washington Coalition of Rabbis.



6:30 PM

Sophie Scholl: The Final Days

Northwest Premiere
Director: Marc Rothemund
Country/Year: Germany, 2005
Language: German w/subtitles
Running Time: 117 min.
Format: 35mm

SJFF proudly premiere's yet another Academy Award® nominee for "Best Foreign Language Film." In 1943, a group of college students, dedicated expressly to the downfall of the Third Reich war machine, mounted an underground resistance movement called the White Rose. One of its few female members, Sophie Scholl, is captured during a dangerous mission. Her cross-examination by the Gestapo quickly escalates into a searing test of wills. Her passionate call to freedom is both haunting and timeless. Winner of three German Oscars (Lolas), including Audience Award and Best Actress Award to Julie Jentsch for her brilliant performance, and two Silver Bears for Best Director and Best Actress at the 2005 Berlin International Film Festival.

Sponsored by Music of Remembrance and The Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center.

Media Sponsor: Victory Studios.



9:00 PM

Metallic Blues

Director: Dan Verete
Country/Year: Canada/Germany/Israel, 2005
Language: Hebrew, German and English w/subtitles
Running Time: 90 min
Format: 35mm

A warm and engaging road-movie about two Israeli car dealers who buy a vintage American limousine, hoping to get-rich-quick by selling it in Hamburg. When everything that could possibly go wrong does, our heroes are faced with unexpected truths about friendship, reconciliation and the ghosts of Germany's dark past. This offbeat, comic treatment of present-day German-Jewish relations is carried off with great zest by the lead characters against the gritty backdrop of present day Hamburg. This film won Best Script and Best Actor (Moshe Igvy also appears in *Campfire*, SJFF on March 18 and in Steven Spielberg's *Munich*) at the 21st International Film Festival of Jerusalem.

preceded by:



The Red Toy (short)

Northwest Premiere
Writer/Director: Dani Rosenberg
Country/Year: Israel, 2004
Language: No Dialogue
Running Time: 12 min.
Format: BetaSP

A Palestinian boy finds a red toy and loses it. Police surveillance cameras observe the toy as it is passed around the old city of Jerusalem — a journey both harmless and ominous. Another great short from The Sam Spiegel Film & TV School in Jerusalem in collaboration with Unesco, as part of the "Reel Dialogue" Project.

Sponsored by Congregation Herzl-Ner Tamid and Phil Smart, Inc.



Monday,
March 13
at
MOHAI



6:30 PM

The Syrian Bride

Director: Eran Riklis
Country/Year: Israel/France/Germany, 2004
Language: Arabic, Hebrew, Russian & French w/subtitles
Running Time: 97 min.
Format: 35mm

The tortured politics of the Middle East receive a particularly humanistic treatment in the critically acclaimed **Syrian Bride**. Skillfully balancing family drama, gentle farce and political commentary, this multifaceted film shows the Syrian-Israeli border in an unconventional light. Leaving her village in the Golan Heights, Mona will cross the border to an arranged marriage with a Syrian fiancé she's never met. Once a Syrian citizen, she will not be allowed to reenter Israel to see her close-knit family again. Embroiled in the personal and bureaucratic mayhem is a large wedding party and cast of characters portrayed with uncommon humor, depth and sympathy.

preceded by:

Esther's Book (short)

West Coast Premiere
Director: Esaias Baitel
Country/Year: Sweden, 2004
Language: English narration
Running Time: 15 min.
Format: DigiBeta

For fifteen years Swedish artist Esaias Baitel photographed Purim holiday festivities in Jerusalem. Baitel's childhood fondness for Purim is inextricably intertwined with his father's storytelling from the point of view of a Holocaust survivor.

Sponsored by Dillon Design and Construction, Inc., JTNews and the Seattle Arab and Iranian Film Festival.

8:45 PM

Whisky

West Coast Premiere
Director: Juan Pablo Rebella and Pablo Stoll
Country/Year: Uruguay/Argentina/Germany/Spain, 2004
Language: Spanish w/subtitles
Running Time: 99 min.
Format: 35mm

When Jacobo, a lonely factory owner in Uruguay desperate to prove his life has added up to something, hears of the impending visit of his irritatingly cheerful brother, whom he hasn't seen in years, he enlists Marta — an employee at his sock factory — to pretend to be his wife, to much comedic effect.



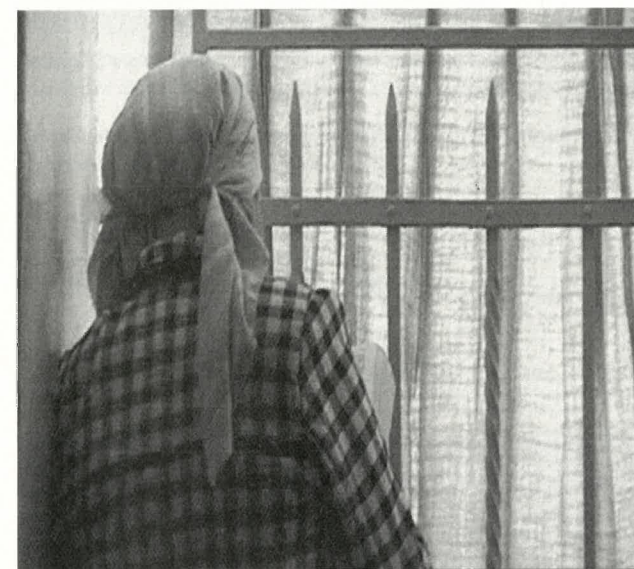
Double Feature:
Devout Women Who Dared

4:30 PM

Sister Rose's Passion

Seattle Premiere
Director: Oren Jacoby
Country/Year: USA, 2004
Language: English
Running Time: 39 min.
Format: BetaSP

This Oscar® nominated film chronicles a courageous woman and her lifelong battle against anti-Semitism within the Catholic Church. As a young Dominican nun from humble beginnings, Sister Rose Thering challenged Christian doctrine that blamed Jews for the death of Jesus. Her work had a direct bearing on the historic Vatican II Council that reformed the Church position on Christian-Jewish relations and continues amidst the furor over Mel Gibson's **The Passion**. This compelling film about fighting prejudice and fostering understanding was honored as Best Documentary Short at the 2004 Tribeca Film Festival.



Keep Not Silent: Ortho-Dykes

Director: Ilil Alexander
Country/Year: Israel, 2004
Language: Hebrew w/subtitles
Running Time: 52 min.
Format: BetaSP

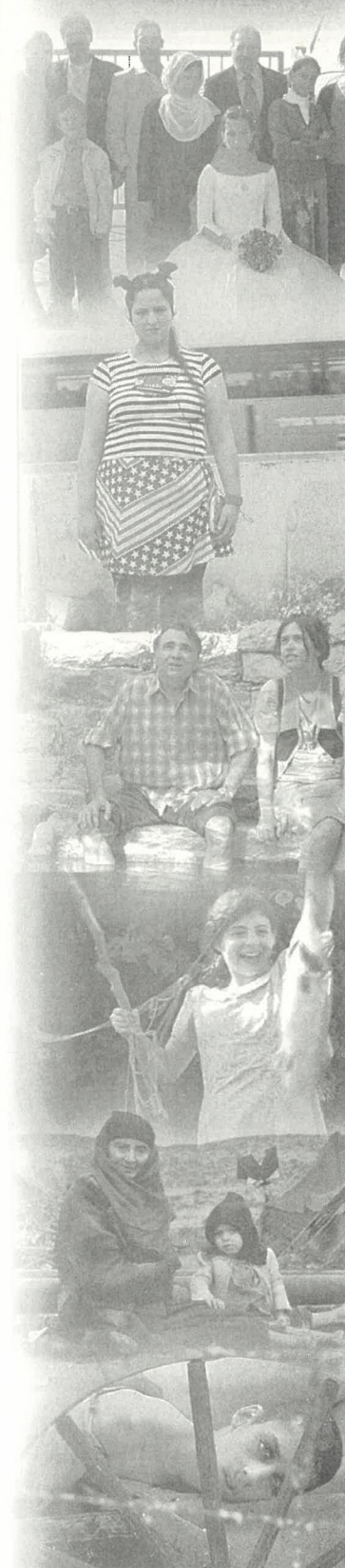
Winner of an Israeli Academy Award for Best Documentary, Ilil Alexander's bold debut film documents the agonizing personal struggle of three women fighting for their right to love openly as lesbians within the confines of their Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox Jerusalem communities. All three are pious, dutifully committed to their faith and their families, but

determined to confront the duality of their sexual and religious identities. Members of a clandestine support group called "the Ortho-dykes," these women eloquently describe the devastating costs of the choices they face. **Keep Not Silent** deftly captures their secret struggle behind curtains of anonymity.

Sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle's Bashert, the LGBT Initiative.



Tuesday,
March 14
at
MOHAI



Tuesday,
March 14
at
MOHAI

6:30 PM

Protocols of Zion

Northwest Premiere
Director: Marc Levin
Country/Year: USA, 2005
Language: English
Running Time: 95 min.
Format: 35mm

Award-winning director Marc Levin delivers a provocative exploration of resurgent anti-Semitism in the wake of the September 11th attacks. "The Protocols of Zion" — written a hundred years ago about a long-discredited Jewish plot to rule the world — are as popular as ever. Copies are sold on every New York street corner, Amazon.com and until recently in Wal-Mart stores. The book greatly influenced Hitler and more recently spawned a dramatization on Egyptian TV. Deeply disturbed by this, Levin conducts man-on-the-street interviews with Arab Americans, Black nationalists, White supremacists and Kabbalist rabbis. An engaging attempt at understanding how this sham book has fueled hatred, violence, and ultimately genocide through the first half of the twentieth century.

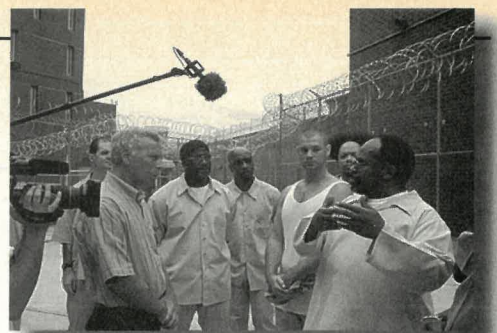
preceded by:

Christ in the City (short)

West Coast Premiere
Director: Yitz Brilliant
Country/Year: USA, 2005
Language: English
Running Time: 25 min.
Format: BetaSP

Jesus comes down to earth in order to check out a screening of Mel Gibson's *The Passion*, but gets stranded with no way back to heaven before Shabbos begins. Can this nice Jewish carpenter find a shul before sunset?

Sponsored by Kadima Reconstructionist Community, Temple Beth Am, Temple B'nai Torah and Temple De Hirsch Sinai.



4:30 PM

Melting Siberia

Northwest Premiere
Directors: Ido Haar
Country/Year: Israel, 2004
Language: Russian w/subtitles
75 min.; Beta-PAL

For Marina Haar, a single phone call might melt the distance between Israel and Siberia. Living happily in Israel, the 57-year-old never knew the identity of her Russian father who abandoned her mother and disappeared into Siberia until her grown son, Ido, the film's director, finds his grandfather's number in a phonebook. *Melting Siberia* is about healing the pain of childhood and learning that there is no such thing as too-little-too-late.



6:30 PM

39 Pounds of Love

Northwest Premiere
Directors: Dani Menkin
Country/Year: USA, 2005
Language: English, Hebrew & Spanish w/subtitles
74 min.; BetaSP

39 Pounds of Love is the inspiring story of Ami Ankilewitz, an extraordinary Israeli man. Diagnosed with a severe form of muscular dystrophy, doctors predicted he wouldn't survive childhood. Now at 34, paralyzed and weighing a shocking 39 pounds, a determined Ami defies his extreme physical limitations to carry on a life of vitality as a computer animator and traveling to the United States for a cross-country road trip. Winner of the 2005 Israeli Ophir Award for Best Documentary Film.

Special Guests: Professor Alfred Bruckstein, Einat Tevel, graduate student in electrical engineering and Omer Barzilai, undergraduate student in physics from Technion Israel Institute of Technology.

Sponsored by American Technion Society: Technion Israel Institute of Technology and Evergreen Region BBYO.

8:30 PM

Avanim (Stones)

Seattle Premiere
Director: Raphael Nadjari
Country/Year: Israel, 2004
Language: Hebrew w/subtitles
107 min.; 35mm

Michale finds momentary relief from her suffocating life as a dutiful wife, mother to a young son, and employee of her father's Tel Aviv accounting firm in afternoon trysts with her lover. A sudden tragedy forces her to confront unraveling emotions. With a John Cassavetes-style emphasis on mobile camera work and intimate close-ups, French director Raphael Nadjari creates an intense portrait of female resistance to a claustrophobic, male-dominated culture. Winner of the top prize at the Geneva International Film Festival, *Avanim*'s Assi Levy gives a beautifully nuanced performance.

preceded by:

A Shabbos Mother (short)

Northwest Premiere
Director: Inbar Namdar
Country/Year: Israel, 2005
Language: Hebrew w/subtitles
27 min.; BetaSP

Three sisters gather at their widowed mother's house for the Jewish Sabbath. Old wounds are opened that force each woman to face her religious conviction, womanhood and motherhood. Another great student short from Israel's Maale School of Television, Film and the Arts.

Sponsored by the Center for Career Alternatives.

Wednesday,
March 15
at
MOHAI

9:00 PM

Diameter of the Bomb

Northwest Premiere
Directors: Steven Silver and Andrew Quigley
Country/Year: UK/Canada, 2005
Language: English
Running Time: 86 min.
Format: 35mm

The unimaginable pain and anguish felt by families of those killed in suicide bombings gets a human face in this documentary. In 2002, a suicide bombing on Bus 32 in Jerusalem left 20 dead and 50 injured. The film connects the stories of a

group of ordinary Israelis — Jews and Arabs, each one connected to someone who died that day and thus each other. A remarkable exploration of the lingering effects of this vicious cycle from all sides.

preceded by:

Security Groove (short)

Northwest Premiere
Directors: Eden Alterman
Country/Year: Israel, 2002
Language: Hebrew w/subtitles
Running Time: 3 min.
Format: BetaSP

A dramatic increase in the number and ubiquity of security guards since the start of the Intifada inspired filmmaker Eden Alterman to lay down Israel's latest urban soundtrack.



Thursday,
March 16

at

Stroum Jewish
Community
Center,
Mercer Island

Senior
Adult
Lunch &
Film
Program

12:00 PM at SJCC

Jews of Iran 😊

Director: Ramin Farahani
Country/Year: The Netherlands, 2005
Language: English, Hebrew and Farsi w/subtitles
Running Time: 52 min.
Format: DVD

The Jewish community in Iran dates back 2700 years. The Islamic Revolution of 1979 resulted in the departure of many from the country, yet in Iran there remains a Jewish community that is flourishing despite discrimination and hardship. This is the first time a Muslim director has made a film about Iranian Jews. Ramin Farahani's path-breaking film, provides rare access into how the *Jews of Iran* preserve their Judaism and hopes for the future.

preceded by:

Esther's Book (short)

West Coast Premiere
Director: Esaías Baitel
Country/Year: Sweden, 2004
Language: English narration
Running Time: 15 min.
Format: Video

For fifteen years Swedish artist Esaías Baitel photographed Purim holiday festivities in Jerusalem. Baitel's childhood fondness for Purim is inextricably intertwined with his father's storytelling from the point of view of a Holocaust survivor.

Sponsored by IKEA, The Stroum Jewish Community Center, Kafe Kineret and Magneev. Reservations are required. Seating is limited.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and will not be sold at the door. To attend, please call Roni at the SJCC: 232-7115 x269.

5:15PM at MOHAI

Premiere Performance of the SJCC Jewish Theatre Company

Today a Little Extra 😊

Directed by Irving Zimmer

Today a Little Extra by John Pielmeier is a celebration of the crazy way in which Jews express their affection for each other. This comedy melts the heart and reveals the truth about retirement, the inexperience of youth, and love after 70.

This program is free of charge.

Sponsored by the Stroum Jewish Community Center.



An
Evening
of Theatre
& Film
at
MOHAI



6:30PM

Ushpizin (Holy Guests) 😊

Director: Giddi Dar
Country/Year: Israel, 2004
Language: Yiddish & Hebrew w/subtitles
Running Time: 90 min.
Format: 35mm

As the festive holiday of Succoth approaches, big-hearted Moshe, a devoutly religious man, finds himself broke and unable to afford his family's move to the Succah nor ritual items for the holiday. Praying for a miracle, an anonymous charitable gift arrives enabling the childless couple to purchase a perfect citron, considered a blessing for having male children. But two suspicious strangers with criminal pasts also arrive on their doorstep. This "groundbreaking" film is the first written and performed by, set and filmed entirely within the insular world of Jerusalem's Mea Shearim Hasidic community. A revelatory and warmhearted look at ultra-Orthodox learning, living and loving in modern-day Israel.

Roundtable Student Discussion, moderated by Dr. Barbara Mackoff.

Sponsored by Northwest Yeshiva High School and The Seattle Kollel, Seattle Jewish Unity Live 2006.

8:50 PM

Checking Out

Northwest Premiere
Director: Jeff Hare
Country/Year: USA, 2005
Language: English
Running Time: 94 min.
Format: DigiBeta

Checking Out has been called the funniest film about suicide ever made. In a comic twist on Shakespeare's "King Lear," Peter Falk stars as a feisty widower and retired thespian who plans to take his "final curtain call" after his 90th birthday party. His three grown children (played by Laura San Giacomo, Judge Reinhold and David Paymer) attempt to put a stop to his impending adieu. Audiences will relish Falk's flamboyant performance and the film's snappy dialogue with just the right combination of schmaltz and shtick delivered by this stellar ensemble cast. A madcap, contemplative comedy about Jewish family fragmentation.

Special Guests: Jeff Hare and Richard Marcus, *Checking Out* director and screenwriter.

Sponsored by Nextbook and Secular Jewish Circle of Puget Sound.



Saturday,
March 18
at
MOHAI

7:00 PM

Campfire

Director: Joseph Cedar
Country/Year: Israel, 2004
Language: Hebrew w/subtitles
Running Time: 95 min.
Format: 35mm

A widow thinks by moving to a religious settlement her life and luck will change for the better. Her two teenage daughters — both experiencing the growing pains of sexuality and independence — have different ideas. Moshe Ivgy (*Metallic Blues*, SJFF March 12 and from Spielberg's *Munich*) co-stars as the endearing Yossi, a mini-bus driver and middle-aged virgin on the lookout for a wife. Written and directed by Joseph Cedar, an Orthodox Jew and former Israeli paratrooper, *Campfire* has come under fire for its jaundiced portrayal of early West Bank settlers' clannish and self-righteous behavior. Winner of six Israeli Academy Awards 2004.

Sponsored by the Consulate General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest and State of Israel Ministry of Tourism.



9:10 PM

Joy

Northwest Premiere
Director: Julie Shles
Country/Year: Israel, 2005
Language: Hebrew w/subtitles
Running Time: 90 min.
Format: 35mm

Joy Levine lives in a shabby apartment and trudges through a dead-end job with a boss who exploits her. When she auditions for the reality show, "Gotta Be Happy," about forgiveness, to be aired after Yom Kippur, she's surprised to find herself chosen. This heartbreakingly unforgettable character with a dysfunctional family must not only let viewers into her private inner-world but conduct a family reconciliation. A masterful work from a director who has the uncanny ability to encompass the endearing and the bleak. Sigalit Fuchs won Best Actress at the Jerusalem International Film Festival and Israeli Academy Awards.



preceded by:

My Fair Dad (short)

West Coast Premiere
Director: Daniel Avitzur
Country/Year: Israel, 2005
Language: Hebrew w/subtitles
Running Time: 4 min.
Format: Beta-PAL

As a child, filmmaker Daniel Avitzur loved to visit her father's candy stand in Israel's Mahane Yehuda market. After a ten year hiatus, she returns to examine the stereotype of the market-stand seller that has shadowed her life and that of her father's. Part of the annual *Moments Jerusalem* short-film series, in which 15 young filmmakers define the faces and contours of Jerusalem through the camera lens.

Sponsored by Ahava Essential Dead Sea Skin Care (Karen Adatto); the Consulate General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest; National Council of Jewish Women, Seattle Section; and State of Israel Ministry of Tourism.



10:00 AM: Bagel Brunch

11:00 AM: Film

Rashevski's Tango

Seattle Premiere
Director: Sam Gabarski
Country/Year: Belgium/France/Luxembourg, 2002
Language: Hebrew & French w/subtitles
100 min.; 35mm

Set in Paris, *Rashevski's Tango* begins with the demise of the family matriarch and grandmother, Rosa, who hated religion and rabbis, but shocks her family by requesting an Orthodox burial. Her death sets off a soul-searching, Jewish-identity crisis in the comfortably assimilated Rashevski clan. Rosa's fondness for tango dancing, however, has the most profound effect on their lives. *Rashevski's Tango* delivers a delicate mix of satire and tears, romance and drama, and sophisticated exploration of heritage and the multiplicity of Jewish lives in a melting-pot Diaspora world.

Special Event: Israeli dancing with award-winning teachers Lorraine and Yusi Yanich.

Sponsored by Bagel Deli, Glazer's Camera and Matzoh Momma.



1:00 PM

Becoming Rachel

West Coast Premiere
Director: Amy Guterson
Country/Year: USA, 2005
Language: English
45 min.; BetaSP

Becoming Rachel is a coming-of-age story set in the Great Depression. When thirteen-year-old Rachel's father becomes ill and unable to work, she uses her brains, ingenuity and an active imagination to help out. In the process, she grows up and learns to have greater faith in God and in herself. *Becoming Rachel* is an intergenerational film about treasuring family, perseverance, responsibility and resourcefulness.

preceded by three shorts:

A Mitzvah Lesson for Mrs. Rosen

Northwest Premiere
Director: April Brenner
Country/Year: USA, 2005
Language: English
7 min. 30 sec.; BetaSP

Can an animal perform a *mitzvah*, a good deed in Jewish law? Sunday School teacher Mrs. Rosen underestimates a good kid-dog story.

Lion in Zion

Northwest Premiere
Director: Osnat Eitan
Country/Year: Israel, 2005
Language: English
4 min.; Beta-PAL

Denis is in charge of predators at the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo, and is the personal caretaker of the city's illustrious mascot, the "fearsome" lion. Part of the annual *Moments Jerusalem* short-film series, in which young filmmakers define the faces and contours of Jerusalem through the camera lens.

Father's Day

US Premiere
Director: Kenneth Mader
Country/Year: USA, 2005
Language: English
4 min.; BetaSP

A story about love and loss, *Father's Day* is written by and stars Bellevue-born Jody Arensberg as a granddaughter who must learn to say goodbye.

Special Guest: Amy Guterson, director.

Sponsored by The Jewish Day School, Jewish Family Service and The Stroum Jewish Community Center.



Sunday,
March 19
at
MOHAI

Matzoh
Momma &
Bagel Deli
Bagel Brunch

Family Film
Series
featuring
Shorts & Local
Filmmakers



Sunday,
March 19

at

MOHAI

Hip Hop,
Rap,
Reggae &
Judaism!

3:00 PM:
Musical performance
by GefiltOfficial,
Jewish hip-hop

3:30 PM: Film

Awake Zion

Seattle Premiere
Director: Monica Haim
Country/Year: Jamaica/US/Israel 2003
Language: English, Patois
Running Time: 45 min.
Format: BetaSP

Have you ever wondered about Bob Marley's passionate references to Zion and Jerusalem or Rastafarian's kinship to the Star of David? *Awake Zion* is a documentary about these unexpected cultural convergences. The film examines the modern-day cultural world of Jewish reggae on US radio, in Jamaica — the birthplace of reggae and Rastafarianism — and in Israel, where Ethiopian Jewry and a small, sizzling reggae scene thrives and reggae is a healing agent for Israel's war-torn reality. Through interviews, music, history, travel and performance, *Awake Zion* connects two communities seemingly on opposite ends of the spiritual spectrum.

preceded by two shorts:

"Berale, Berale"

West Coast Premiere
Director: Yehuda Groveis
Country/Year: Israel, 2005
Language: Hebrew w/subtitles
Running Time: 4 min.
Format: Beta-PAL

Yisrael, an ultra-Orthodox cantor, and his secular neighbor, an Israeli rapper, encounter each other every Sabbath meal. Can they find harmony? Part of the annual *Moments Jerusalem* short-film series, in which young filmmakers define the faces and contours of Jerusalem through the camera lens.

Matisyahu

Seattle Premiere
Director: David Baugnion
Country/Year: USA, 2004
Language: English
Running Time: 11 min.
Format: DigiBeta

Matisyahu (Matthew in Hebrew) is a Hasidic reggae/beat-box/rapper whose performances meld Jewish tradition with modern sounds, creating a new form of spiritual expression. This documentary follows Matisyahu as he performs in New York City, and explains his conversion to Hasidism and mission to ignite spirituality with his music.

Sponsored by Hillel, The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life at UW, J-Connect and The Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle's Young Leadership Division.



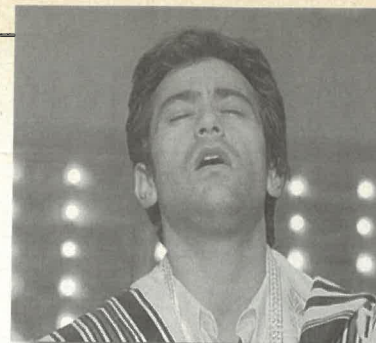
5:15 PM

Schwartz Dynasty

Northwest Premiere
Directors: Shmuel Hasfarei and Amir Hasfarei
Country/Year: Israel, 2004
Language: Hebrew & Russian w/subtitles
Running Time: 104 min.
Format: 35mm

This tragicomedy centers on two women of different generations with a common mission in life: to find space in a Jewish cemetery. Miriam Schwartz struggles for the right to be buried beside her husband. Anna is a young, Russian beauty who wants to fulfill her father's dying wish to be buried in the same cemetery. Both are up against an inflexible town council, intolerant Russian émigrés, and religious narrow-mindedness. The ineffectual men in their families and the rabbi are unable to help them. The odds are more than stacked against these heroines, but the resolution is as unexpectedly delightful as it is powerfully moving.

Sponsored by Panim Hadashot.



7:45 PM

Alles Auf Zucker! (Go For Zucker!)



Seattle Premiere
Director: Dani Levy
Country/Year: Germany, 2005
Language: German w/subtitles
Running Time: 90 min.
Format: 35mm

A box-office smash in Germany, *Go For Zucker!* is hailed as the first German-Jewish comedy since WWII. Jaekie Zucker (in a patently ridiculous and undeniably charming performance by Henry Hübchen) is a chronic liar, cheat and hustler living in Berlin. He has abandoned his career, family and Jewish roots since the fall of the Berlin

Wall. When word comes that his mother has left him a sizeable inheritance, there's a catch: Jaekie must first reconcile with his long-estranged brother, an Orthodox Jew living in Frankfurt, by desperately passing himself and his *shiksa* wife off as observant Jews. Winner of six Lolas, including Best Film and Best Director.

preceded by:

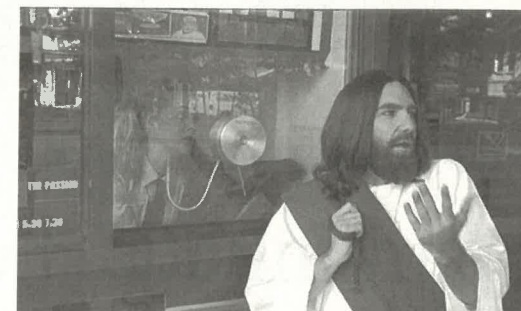
Christ in the City (short)

West Coast Premiere
Director: Yitz Brilliant
Country/Year: USA, 2005
Language: English
Running Time: 25 min.
Format: BetaSP

Jesus comes down to earth in order to check out a screening of Mel Gibson's *The Passion*, but gets stranded with no way back to heaven before Shabbos begins. Can this nice Jewish carpenter find a shul before sunset?

Special Event: SJFF's First Audience Choice Awards Ceremony.

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Sunday,
March 19

at

MOHAI

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&
Audience
Choice
Awards
Ceremony

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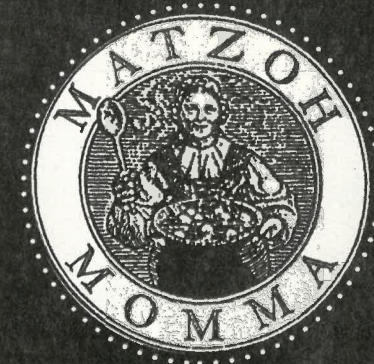
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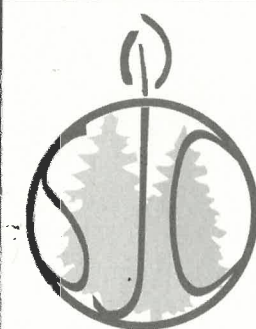
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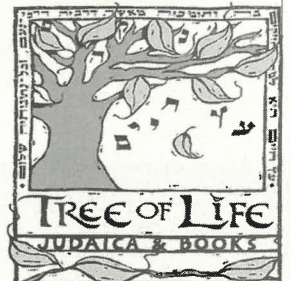
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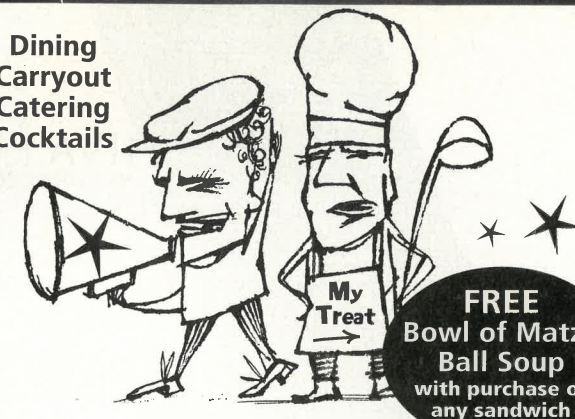


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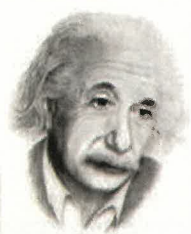
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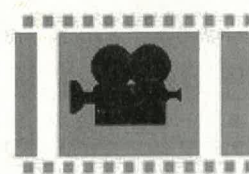
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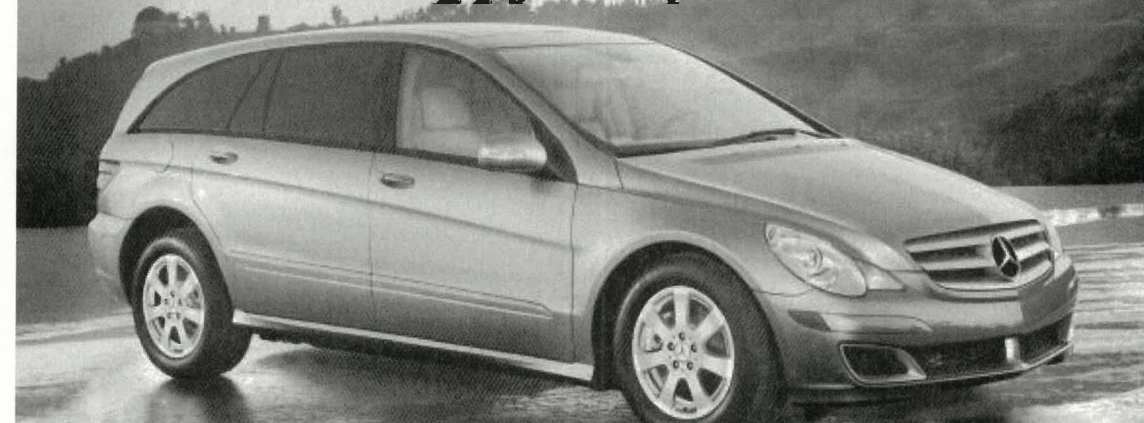
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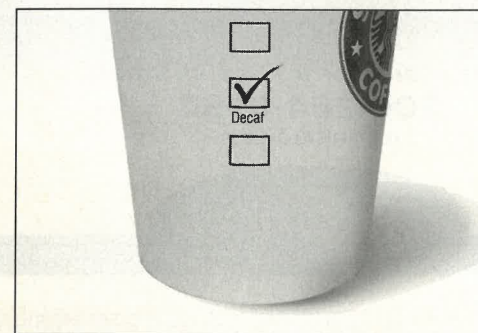
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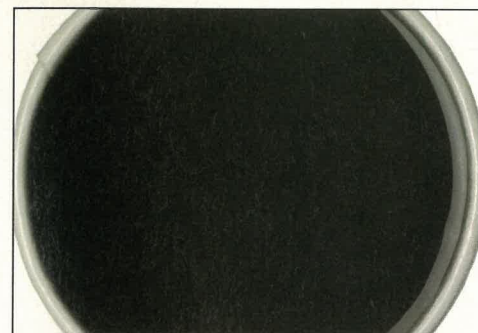
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