



4th 1999
annual

The American Jewish Committee's

**SEATTLE
JEWISH
FILM
FESTIVAL**

March 13-21, 1999
King Cat Theater

FOR INFORMATION
(206) 622-6315
www.ajcseattle.org

FESTIVAL INFORMATION

Screenings

- All screenings begin promptly at announced time
- All programs subject to change
- Information about screening changes will be announced on The American Jewish Committee's recorded telephone announcement: (206) 622-6315

Films are not rated and may contain graphic language or adult situations. Parental discretion is advised. Call (206) 622-6315 with questions.

Seating

- Only SJFF Sponsors seating is reserved
- Seating is limited, advance purchase is recommended

Theater & Parking Information

- All screenings take place at the King Cat Theater (except Monday, March 15)
- The King Cat Theater is located on the southeast corner of Sixth Avenue and Blanchard Street in downtown Seattle
- Ample parking for film festival events is located in lots and on streets adjacent to theater

Ordering Advance Tickets (see order form on reverse side)

- Advance tickets are non-refundable
- Tickets ordered by mail, phone, and fax will be held at King Cat Theater box office, unless a self-addressed stamped envelope is provided and order received by MARCH 10

Individual Ticket Prices

- \$7.50 General Admission
- \$6.00 AJC Members (current), Seniors, & Students
- \$4.00 Pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah (Kids under age 13)

Special Event Prices

- Sorry, no discounts available
- \$18.00 OPENING NIGHT GALA
- \$12.00 BAGEL & FILM BRUNCH

Festival Passes

A festival pass is a fantastic deal and a good way to guarantee you won't get sold-out!

- \$100 **FULL Pass** Admission to all events, programs and screenings
- \$80 **AJC Pass** Full pass benefits at a discount for current AJC members
- \$60 **HALF Pass** Opening Night Gala, Bagel & Film Brunch, plus five screenings of your choice

Passholder seating held until 10 minutes prior to start of screening

Group Sales

- Group discount by pre-arrangement only!
- \$6.00 per person for groups of 12 or more
- Please contact the SJFF office (206) 622-6315

SJFF Volunteers

A variety of volunteer opportunities are available. Please contact the SJFF Volunteer Coordinator at (206) 622-6315

AJC MEMBERSHIP

Join or Renew Today! • Regular Member: \$100 • Under Age 35: \$35
Support SJFF • Help AJC's year-round efforts • Save on tickets & passes

QUESTIONS?

Call SJFF at (206) 622-6315 or e-mail seattle@ajc.org

Poster & brochure design: Stephanie Cooper @ C.Design

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY/MARCH 13

7:30 **OPENING NIGHT GALA**
The Harmonists

SUNDAY/MARCH 14

1:00 The Island on Bird Street
3:00 Florentine
7:30 **STEVEN SPIELBERG/SHOAH FOUNDATION**
The Last Days

MONDAY/MARCH 15

7:30 **FREE SCREENING AT UW**
Nothing To Be Written Here

TUESDAY/MARCH 16

7:00 In Our Own Hands
9:30 Man is a Woman

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 17

2:00 **SENIOR MATINEE**
A Letter to Mother
7:00 Mother Stayed There
Gesho
9:00 Out For Love...Be Back Shortly

THURSDAY/MARCH 18

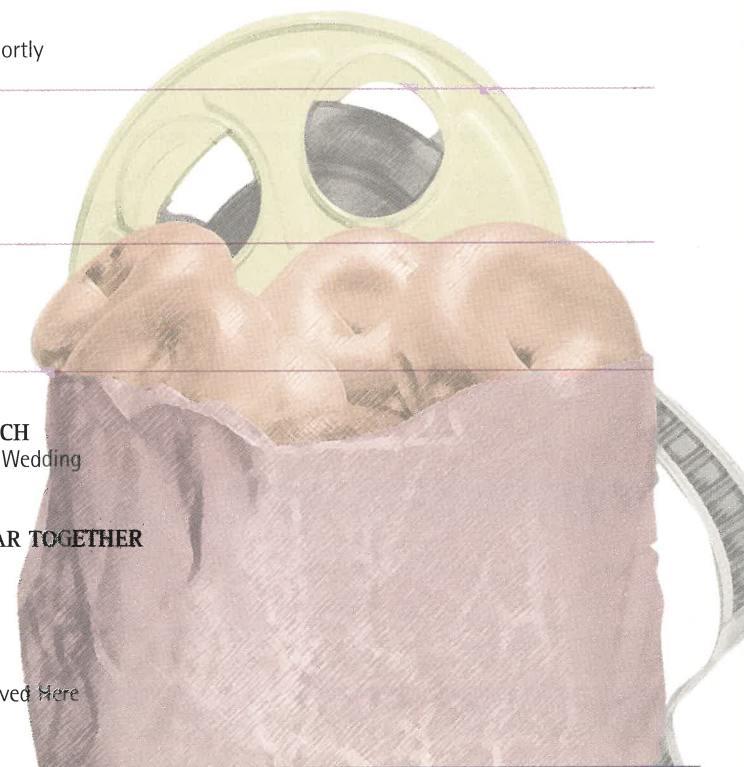
7:00 Making a Killing
Silence
9:00 Women

SATURDAY/MARCH 20

7:30 Man is a Woman
9:30 For My Baby

SUNDAY/MARCH 21

10:00 **BAGEL & FILM BRUNCH**
Two Weddings/ A Jewish Wedding
Chicks in White Satin
Autumn Sun
3:00 **RELIGIOUS & SECULAR TOGETHER**
Fifth Commandment
I Thee Wed
Ido
CLOSING NIGHT
7:30 The South: Alice Never Lived Here
Adio



WELCOME

Dear Friends:

"Our program is the best ever!" Each year we say this; yet, with every new season we manage to surpass our last.

This year we really mean it! Comedies, dramas, documentaries, animation and shorts - our line-up has it all. From the hilarious French hit *Man is a Woman*, to the provocative *In Our Own Hands*, each film is a jewel; together they are guaranteed to inform and entertain, encouraging lively discussion and personal reflection.

You definitely will not want to miss our stellar Opening Weekend program, featuring exclusive Seattle premieres of both the European blockbuster *The Harmonists* and the triumphant Academy Award-nominated *The Last Days*. By joining us at the Seattle Jewish Film Festival, you will also enjoy a singular opportunity to visit with the films' directors, producers and actors.

Audience feedback tells us that our visiting artists series is a highlight of the festival, so we've expanded the line-up. With ten filmmakers and an impressive lists of commentators scheduled (including top scholars fresh from the Jewish Studies Association's annual meeting at UW), we urge you to join us in exploring topics such as Nazi-confiscated art, Israel's next generation, Ashkenazi/Sephardi relations, growing divisions between religious and secular Jews, and the Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel and Africa.

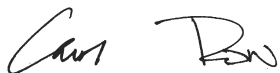
Once a year the American Jewish Committee's adopts the magic of film to promote awareness and appreciation of historical and contemporary Jewish issues. The Seattle Jewish Film Festival has become a centerpiece of our efforts to enhance the quality of Jewish life, and to bring members of the Greater Seattle community together to explore the richness and diversity of Jewish culture.

For some, the Seattle Jewish Film Festival is the American Jewish Committee. But in actuality, AJC's dynamic, innovative programming continues year round.

For nine decades, the AJC has been a vital force in the American Jewish community, a unique influence on our larger society, and a guiding spirit in the worldwide campaign to enhance the human rights and fundamental freedoms of people everywhere. Here in the Northwest, in concert with leaders of a variety of like-minded ethnic, racial and religious groups, the AJC focuses its efforts on reducing prejudice and discrimination, and enhancing of democratic values and pluralism.

Join us at the 1999 Seattle Jewish Film Festival for a dazzling array of Jewish life, culture and history that offers new answers to the age-old question, "What does being Jewish mean?" While you're there, we invite you to learn more about our advocacy, education and diplomatic efforts.

See you at the festival!

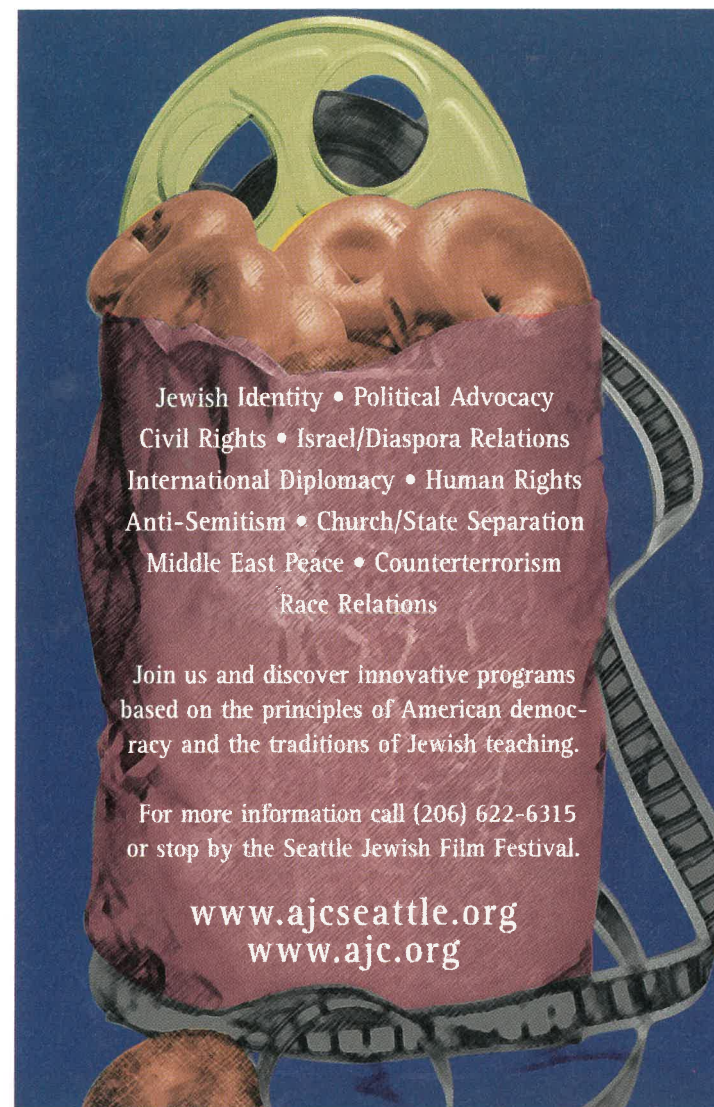


Carol Gown & Ron Ralph
SJFF 1999 Co-Chairs



Nancy F. Vineberg
Executive Director

The American Jewish Committee



Jewish Identity • Political Advocacy
Civil Rights • Israel/Diaspora Relations
International Diplomacy • Human Rights
Anti-Semitism • Church/State Separation
Middle East Peace • Counterterrorism
Race Relations

Join us and discover innovative programs
based on the principles of American democ-
racy and the traditions of Jewish teaching.

For more information call (206) 622-6315
or stop by the Seattle Jewish Film Festival.

www.ajcseattle.org
www.ajc.org

**We have more
than just film in our bag.**

OPENING NIGHT SATURDAY, MARCH 13

PREMIERE SCREENING and GALA DESSERT RECEPTION

7:30 PM THE HARMONISTS

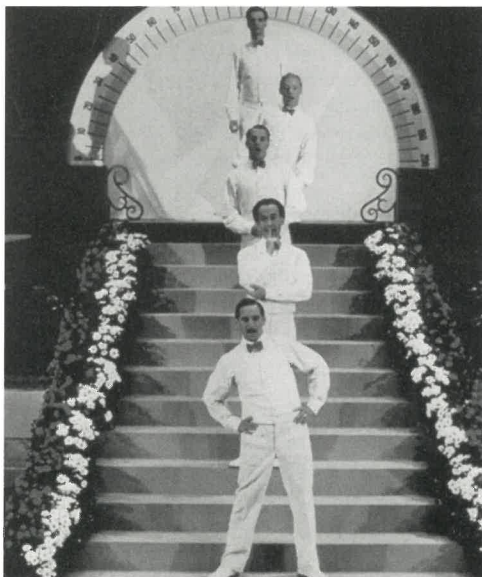
Germany/Austria, 1998
Joseph Vilsmaier, Director

SEATTLE
PREMIERE

A box office phenomenon in Germany now racking up prizes across Europe, *The Harmonists* charts the meteoric rise and dramatic fall of pre-War Europe's most popular vocal group, The Comedian Harmonists. Beloved national celebrities until 1935, when half of the group was forced into exile, these six young men took the Western world by storm with their crystalline a capella renderings. For a time, the group succeeded in lifting the national spirit with their sassy humor and suggestive lyrics. When the Nazis came to power, however, the group's distinguishing character became not their artistry, but their heredity - three of the members were Jews. Blinded by their sudden stardom, none of the members take Hitler's rise seriously, despite clear warnings from the Reich Ministry. Entertaining and nostalgic on a grand scale, *The Harmonists* serves as a bittersweet tribute to Berlin's golden days and the central contributions of Jewish artists to Germany's cultural life.

"A visceral reminder of a moment before the abyss, an experience of elevation that involved Germans and Jews together, singing & making happiness, in a place about to go stark raving mad." - *The Washington Post*

INVITED GUEST: Actor Heino Ferch



FEATURED PREMIERE SUNDAY, MARCH 14

STEVEN SPIELBERG AND THE SHOAH FOUNDATION PRESENT

7:30 PM THE LAST DAYS

USA, 1999
James Moll, Director
June Beallor / Ken Lipper, Producers

SEATTLE
PREMIERE



Nominated for a 1999 Academy Award, *The Last Days* is the story of five remarkable people whose strength and will to live represent the extraordinary power of the human spirit. With the end of World War II in sight and the demise of the Third Reich near, Hitler escalated his genocidal campaign against the Jews, sacrificing Germany's war efforts to carry out the Final Solution. From the villages of Carpathia to the cosmopolitan city of Budapest, the Nazis ravaged their Hungarian homeland. Despite all, as new Americans - a grandmother, teacher, businessman, artist and US Congressman - lived to build new lives out of turbulent childhoods. Told solely by the voices of eyewitnesses, *The Last Days* interweaves private accounts, pivotal historic footage, and a powerful score from Academy Award-winning composer Hans Zimmer. A monumental film and a stunning legacy from Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation.

PLEASE JOIN US for a very special premiere of *The Last Days*, with special guests: Howard Schultz, CEO, Starbucks Coffee Company; Director James Moll; Producer June Beallor; and Congressman Tom Lantos. Discussion following the screening.

CLOSING NIGHT PREMIERE SUNDAY, MARCH 21

7:30 PM THE SOUTH: ALICE NEVER LIVED HERE

Israel, 1998
Sini Bar David, Director

SEATTLE
PREMIERE

Beautifully choreographed, crisscrossing from a small Ladino-speaking Greek village to the housing projects near Jaffa, this ground-breaking documentary offers a rare account of three women struggling to survive, to have a meaningful life, and to express their unique voice in the new Israeli society. Facing head-on the cultural isolation, poverty and racism experienced by many Sephardim in Israel, filmmaker Sini Bar-David intimately juxtaposes her own story with that of her 89-year-old grandmother and 15-year-old, Elinor Nagar. Bused uptown to school in wealthier, "whiter" North Tel Aviv, crossing divides both geographic and cultural, Elinor experiences discrimination from peers and teachers alike. Determined to challenge the limitations society has imposed, she is mired in an internal struggle between ambition, family and roots.

INTRODUCED BY: Marie Shek, Israeli Cultural Attache
INVITED GUEST: Director Sini Bar-David

Seattle is home to the third-largest Sephardic population in the United States. Don't miss our closing night look at the unique experiences of Sephardim in Seattle, the US and Israel. Discussion following film screening



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Community Tickets: Free tickets to every regular festival screening are made available through local social service agencies and non-profit organizations, for use by seniors, new immigrants, low

income families and all others who would otherwise be unable to participate in SJFF.

Free for Seniors Matinee: An annual event at SJFF, the free for seniors matinee takes place this year on March 17. Join us for an afternoon screening of *A Letter to Mother*. All are welcome, but only seniors get in free!



TO REACH THE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
COORDINATOR CALL: (206) 622-6315

BAGEL & FILM BRUNCH

With live music to nosh by, stop and fill up on our spread of bagels with all the shmears before joining us "Under the Chuppah" for our featured presentation of three modern Jewish wedding tales. If you want to break into a hora, we won't stop you!

Dietary Laws Observed.

FILMTalks!

March 16, 1999
On the Boards!

Announcing FILMTalks!, a daylong diversity program for 9th and 10th graders attending Seattle public and private schools.

FILMTalks! uses film as a vehicle to engage students in discussions about bigotry, intolerance and prejudice, and provides an opportunity for youth to find their own voice in the production of a film about these issues.

Using the American Jewish Committee's acclaimed education program "Hands Across the Campus" as its foundation, FILM Talks! brings youth from all areas of the city together to begin developing the skills necessary to enhance intergroup communication, promote intercultural understanding, and foster respect for diversity in their schools.

The American Jewish Committee
SEATTLE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
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