

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE PRESENTS



5th ANNUAL SEATTLE

JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

MARCH 11th-19th 2000

LOEWS CINEPLEX CITY CENTRE THEATRE



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VIEW - SAVOR
DISCUSS

WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Just five years ago the American Jewish Committee of Greater Seattle launched the first Seattle Jewish Film Festival. Searching for a way to increase awareness of our unique Jewish communities, nurture pluralism, and build bridges between our region's diverse racial, religious and ethnic groups, we chose film as our medium.

Film has an unparalleled immediacy and vibrancy as it captures a wonderful range of languages and stories. This medium allows us to consider our past and contemplate our future from our place at the dawning of the 21st century and from our cushiony seats with popcorn in hand. SJFF takes the broad human relations mission of the AJC and annually brings it to the silver screen for your exploration and enjoyment.

In the past five years, SJFF has grown into a major community event which draws over 8,000 people together. With your support, the Seattle Jewish Film Festival has become one of the largest Jewish Film Festivals in the country, one that plays a central role in the life of the Greater Seattle Jewish community.

Almost 200 films competed for a spot in this year's line-up. Seventeen countries are represented, with a line-up that includes one U.S., five West Coast, and eighteen Northwest premieres! The films being screened represent the most evocative, original, and visually stunning Jewish films released in the past year. As you've come to expect from past festivals, our Fifth Anniversary season has it all: comedies that will send you into stitches, controversial portraits of contemporary Jewish life, and historical chronicles about Jewish communities in extraordinary places. In addition to the many filmmakers from around the world joining us for post-film discussions, local community leaders feature prominently in our programs, highlighting the "Seattle" in the Seattle Jewish Film Festival.

Setting out to reflect and represent the variety and complexity of people and experiences that comprise our local and global Jewish communities, SJFF draws together individuals from all areas of communal life – leaders and newcomers, religious and secular, affiliated and non-traditional, young and old. It creates a venue for our diverse community to explore, learn and discuss our common bonds and our differences.

There are enormous challenges inherent in putting on such a large scale event, but SJFF enables us to offer a year's worth of AJC related programming in a single week.

If the issues and ideas addressed during the Film Festival excite you, we encourage you to become involved in the AJC and SJFF. Throughout this guide you will find examples of AJC activities that tie in to the themes represented in our film and program line-up. We encourage you to learn more about the AJC, the oldest human rights agency in the U.S. If you are not yet a member of the AJC, please consider joining. Your membership will help to reduce prejudice and discrimination, to enhance democratic values, to promote pluralism – and of course, to continue celebrating the diversity and richness of the Jewish experience through the magic of film.

This year's fifth anniversary festival is proudly brought to you under the collective guidance of the past four years' festival chairs, by the amazingly talented and committed festival staff, and through the efforts of a long list of volunteers. In addition, SJFF relies upon the sponsorship of many individuals, corporations, foundations and community organizations. Without their contributions – of funding, in-kind support, and technical assistance – there simply would be no festival. We encourage you to support our sponsors.

We wish to thank the AJC-SJFF staff who have given their all to make this Festival our best yet; Molly Sedlik, Pamela Brown-Lavitt, Cathleen O'Connell, Melissa Marlowe, Sally Gilpin, and Dara Ayres. Last, we wish to thank you, our audience, volunteers and supporters for your enthusiasm and participation over the past five years. View, savor, discuss and enjoy!

Warmly,

Carol Gown, Michael Levin, Ron Ralph, Deborah Rosen, Leslie Rosen

Festival Co-Chairs:

Carol Gown, Michael Levin, Ron Ralph, Deborah Rosen, Leslie Rosen

FESTIVAL STAFF

Molly Sedlik, Festival Manager
Pamela Brown-Lavitt, Film and Program Coordinator
Cathleen O'Connell, PR and Events Coordinator
Melissa Marlowe, Development Coordinator
Sally Gilpin, FILMTalks! Coordinator
Dara Ayres, AJC Program Manager



Greetings!

As Mayor of the City of Seattle, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate the members and participants in the 5th Anniversary of the Seattle Jewish Film Festival.

Film enjoys a special place in our city's cultural life. In the four years since the founding of the Seattle Jewish Film Festival, it has quickly come to stand at the front of our annual arts line-up, offering an outstanding selection of films, visiting artists, and programming.

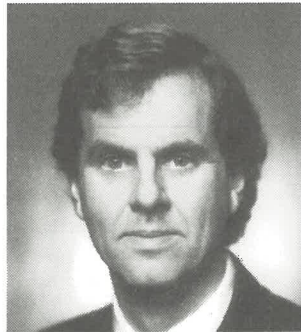
The Seattle Jewish Film Festival provides an array of experiences that highlight the diversity of Jewish history and culture, allowing us to visit, learn, and explore together. The value of the Seattle Jewish Film Festival, however, does not stop here.

As a program of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) of Greater Seattle, the festival mirrors AJC's broader mission of building bridges, reducing discrimination, and working on a vast number of issues to bring about a better world and community. Programs like FILMTalks! bring together our city's youth for a day of anti-prejudice education, making the Seattle Jewish Film Festival a truly inspiring event.

Again, congratulations to all whom have worked so diligently to bring the festival to our community. Best wishes for an enjoyable festival.

Very truly yours,

Paul Schell
Mayor of the City of Seattle



To the Audiences of the Seattle Jewish Film Festival:

Close to a century ago, the American Jewish Committee was founded with a mission to protect the rights of Jews and all minorities, to promote understanding and cooperation between our nation's diverse racial, religious and ethnic groups, and to support the vitality of the Jewish people throughout the world.

As National Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee, I am proud to applaud the efforts of our Greater Seattle Chapter for its success in bringing our mission to this community through the compelling medium of film.

After the first Seattle Jewish Film Festival season in 1995, the Greater Seattle Chapter was awarded our prestigious national Szabad Award for Chapter Excellence in Programming in recognition of this exemplary project. We have been delighted to watch the Seattle Jewish Film Festival grow over the last several years. The festival now offers filmgoers a wonderful lens through which we can examine and contemplate the diverse nature of the Jewish experience today – in America, Israel and throughout the world.

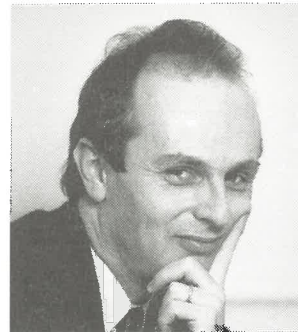
As the festival celebrates its fifth anniversary, we are proud to recognize the central role that it plays in the American Jewish Committee's mission in Greater Seattle and in the life of the regional Jewish community. Moreover, we salute the lay leaders and professional staff who have worked so hard to ensure that the Seattle Jewish Film Festival remains a point of discovery and entertainment for Seattle residents of all backgrounds.

Mazel tov and Y'asher koach! Congratulations and may you go from strength to strength.

Best wishes for an enjoyable festival.

Sincerely,

David A. Harris
National Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee



Greetings from the State of Israel:

On behalf of the State of Israel, I wish to extend our congratulations to the Seattle Jewish Film Festival on its 5th anniversary.

As the Israeli film industry continues its rapid development, it is wonderful to witness the parallel growth of film festivals that are committed to showcasing our emerging talent. Since its inception, the Seattle Jewish Film Festival has brought to the Pacific Northwest some of the finest examples of contemporary Israeli film. This is the medium that portrays today's Israeli life and reality in its various facets.

As one of the first organizations to recognize the need for efforts to bridge the gap between Israelis and the American Jews, the American Jewish Committee has long played a leadership role in translating to one another our respective unique experiences. By providing a forum for the most compelling and entertaining Israeli features, documentaries and television series, the Seattle Jewish Film Festival exemplifies the commitments of the AJC and enables all citizens of Greater Seattle to explore Israel in its cultural richness and contemporary complexity. For this we are very grateful.

Congratulations and best wishes for a successful festival!

Sincerely,

Daniel Shek
Consul General

SIMPLY BRILLIANT.

Congratulations on the Fifth Annual
Seattle Jewish Film Festival.

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Festival for
another year
of excellence
in Jewish
Film



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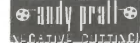
Volunteer



Media



Trailer



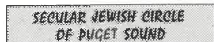
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OPENING NIGHT
SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 7:30PM

PREMIERE SCREENING
AND GALA DESSERT
RECEPTION

YANA'S FRIENDS
Israel's nominee for an Academy Award tops off SJFF's stellar lineup. *Yana's Friends* is an irresistible romantic comedy about Russian immigrants making their way in the brave new world of Tel-Aviv during the Gulf War. Crazy, nuts, meschugge! You'd also be crazy to miss this film or the post-screening dessert banquet sponsored by the scrumptious Palomino Restaurant. (see page 8)

SPECIAL GUEST:
DONNY INBAR, CULTURAL
AFFAIRS OFFICER,
ISRAELI CONSULATE



FEATURED PREMIERE
SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 7:30PM

SNEAK PREVIEW AND
NORTHWEST PREMIERE

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HANK GREENBERG
Baseball fans will love this film. That's a given. The rest of us will still be singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game"... in Yiddish... when the lights go up. Sold out across the country, Seattle gets a sneak peek at Aviva Kempner's award-winning "valentine" to hall-of-famer and Jewish-American icon Hank Greenberg. (see page 9)

SPECIAL GUEST:
AVIVA KEMPNER, FILMMAKER
Pre-screening VIP Party at Il Fornaio for SJFF Sponsors, by invitation only. (see ticket order form)



BAGEL AND FILM BRUNCH
SUNDAY, MARCH 19,
10:00AM BAGELS / 10:45AM FILMS

"FROM BIRTH TO BRIS
AND BEYOND"

FOUR ENDEARING SHORT FILMS
A Jewish gathering, especially a birth or bris, would not be complete without bagels, the tasty nosh of choice. Following the spread and shmear, come laugh and shed a tear. Featuring four short films celebrating children, including *L.A. Mohel*, *Purim* and *GOD@heaven*. (see pages 16 and 17)

APPROPRIATE FOR ALL AGES.
DIETARY LAWS OBSERVED.



FILMTALKS

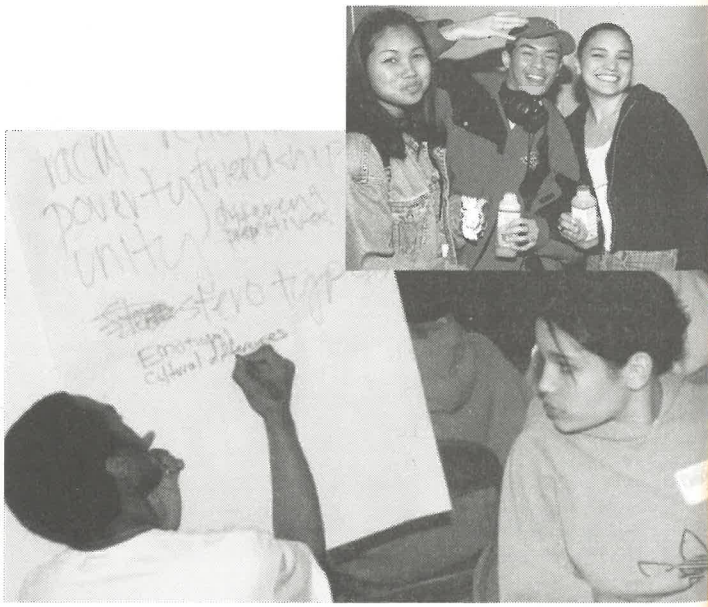
LEADING STUDENTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BIGOTRY

Announcing FILMTalks!, a daylong diversity program for high school students. At its core, FILMTalks! uses film to engage students in discussions about prejudice and intolerance. By using film to raise these issues, FILMTalks! introduces youth to the powerful role film can play in breaking social barriers and creating bridges of cultural understanding. Using the American Jewish Committee's acclaimed education program 'Hands Across the Campus' as its foundation, students begin developing the skills necessary to enhance inter-group communication and understanding, as well as foster respect and diversity in their schools.

Last year FILMTalks! brought together 250 students from fourteen schools. According to the Seattle Times, FILMTalks! "Opens people's eyes to what is out there. You can't just turn to your own people, you have to turn to others." One student participant added, "We need more things like this."

This year FILMTalks! will bring together over 300 students from public and private schools in King and Pierce County to share experiences and exchange ideas. Students will watch a thought-provoking film, engage in town-hall forums, and participate in small group discussions that create a safe atmosphere for students to explore their values and find their own voice about these issues.

FILMTALKS! 2000 IS TAKING PLACE ON THURSDAY, MARCH 16TH
AT THE CITY CENTRE THEATRE FROM 8:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

DATE	TIME	FILM	COUNTRY	LEGEND	LENGTH
SAT March 11th	7:30	OPENING NIGHT GALA <i>Yana's Friends</i>	Israel		1h 30m
SUN March 12th	1:00	The Color of Jewish <i>Menelik: Black Jewish Prince</i>	USA/Israel Israel/Ethiopia		26m 60m
	3:00	Who's the Caboose?	USA		1h 33m
	7:30	The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg	USA		1h 30m
MON March 13th	7:00	FREE SCREENING AT THE UW, KANE HALL, ROOM 220 Part of "The First Sephardic/Mizrahi Film Series" <i>I Miss the Sun</i> <i>The Story of Frank Iny</i>	USA USA		20m 40m
	7:00	Zyklon Portrait <i>Children of Chabannes</i>	Canada USA/France		13m 1h 31m
TUE March 14th	9:00	Vilna <i>Port of Last Resort</i>	USA USA/China/Austria		3m 1h 19m
	2:00	FREE FOR SENIORS MATINEE <i>Pastry, Pain & Politics</i> <i>The Personals</i> <i>The Shvitz</i>	Switzerland USA USA		30m 37m 47m
WED March 15th	7:00	From Swastika to Jim Crow <i>Antiracist</i>	USA Sweden		60m 25m
	7:00	Kadosh	Israel		2h 00m
THU March 16th	9:00	Hollywoodism	Canada		1h 29m
	7:00	EVERYONE'S A CRITIC! <i>Sea Horses</i> <i>Emporte-Moi</i>	Israel Canada/France Switzerland		17m 1h 30m
SAT March 18th	9:30	Vilna <i>Meschugge: The Giraffe</i>	USA Germany		3m 1h 47m
	10:00	BAGEL & FILM BRUNCH "From Birth to Bris and Beyond" <i>A World to Come</i> <i>L.A. Mohel</i> <i>Purim</i> <i>GOD@heaven</i>	USA USA USA USA/Israel		4m 30m 5m 20m
SUN March 19th	12:30	<i>Florentene</i>	Israel		2h 30m
	2:30	<i>GOD@heaven</i> <i>Animated Anne Frank's Diary</i>	USA/Israel France/Ireland/ Luxembourg/UK Netherlands		20m 1h 27m
	4:00	<i>Delta Jews</i> <i>Yidl in the Middle</i>	USA USA		1h 27m 1h 27m
	7:30	CLOSING NIGHT <i>After the End of the World</i>	Bulgaria/Greece Germany		1h 48m

LEGEND

FLAG
CONTAINS ADULT CONTENT

AT HOME
THE GLOBAL NEIGHBORHOOD
These mostly international films depict the struggles, histories and joys of living life amidst different and sometimes conflicting cultures and beliefs. If home is where the heart is, these films put their finger on the pulse of today's global heartbeat.

ONE UPPING THE 'ANTI'
CONFRONTING HATE
AND BIGOTRY
Those of us living in the Pacific Northwest are unfortunately aware that hate groups thrive in Washington State. These films turn the lens on hate and show us how confronting anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia and homophobia can be a labor of love.

THE FUTURE OF MEMORY
VITAL HISTORIES, VIBRANT VISIONS
Family albums, archival photos, diaries and storytelling are various forms of material evidence used by these filmmakers to transmit memories. Film has the capacity to define and shape these vital histories into vibrant visions for subsequent generations.

TWO SPECIAL EXHIBITS
from the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center and the Washington State Jewish Historical Society will appear on designated days in the Loews Cineplex City Centre Lobby during the festival. Schedule to be announced.

FAMILY DAY

SATURDAY
11THOPENING
NIGHT GALADESSERT
RECEPTION

7:30PM

YANA'S FRIENDS*Northwest Premiere*
Israel, 1999, 90 min.
Hebrew and Russian w/subtitles
Arik Kaplun, Director

Israel's nominee for Best Foreign Film at the upcoming Academy Awards launches SJFF 2000's stellar lineup. *Yana's Friends* is an irresistible romantic comedy about Russian immigrants who land in the brave new world of Tel-Aviv during the Gulf War. This absurd situation draws young and beautiful Yana toward Eli, her playboy Israeli roommate. A wedding videographer and professional voyeur, Eli captures Yana's most private moments when her husband secretly returns to Moscow and she is left to fend for herself. Outside, missiles fly and Saddam Hussein threatens chemical warfare. But in the apartment's only safe, hermetically sealed bedroom, sparks of a different nature fly. When a crack in the ceiling reveals their

landlady's private love letters, a Seinfeldian plot blossoms with a cast of characters sure to delight. Moscow born, Israeli bred director Arik Kaplun was recently named one of Variety's Ten Directors to Watch at Sundance. Wife Evelyne Kaplun shines as the Ally McBealish Yana.

SPECIAL GUEST: DONNY INBAR,
CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER,
ISRAELI CONSULATE

COSPONSORED BY THE CONSULATE
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3:00PM

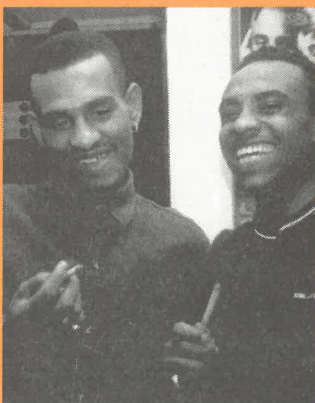
WHO'S THE CABOOSE?*Northwest Premiere*
USA, 1998, 93 min.
Sam Seder, Director

This hilarious mock-documentary lampoons the Hollywood snake pit, complete with cutthroat thespians and backstabbing agents. Susan, a New York comic, embarks for L.A.'s "pilot season," pinning her hopes on a TV sitcom. Her milquetoast boyfriend Max follows her out hoping to shack up with the ambitious dark beauty. Competing with beves of blonde actress-wannabes, Susan finally lands a big role, but is unable to change her look. A gut-busting, frustrated jab at the "Jewish paradox" in Hollywood. When is Jewish humor considered "too Jewish"? Andy Dick's portrayal of Susan's Hollywood agent drips with irony. This film will especially amuse diehard Seattlites.

MENELIK*Black Jewish Prince*
West Coast Premiere
Israel, 1999, 60 min.
Hebrew and Amharic w/subtitles
Daniel Wachsmann, Director

Gadi Abaja is a young Ethiopian living on the margins of Israeli society in Tel-Aviv's central bus station. He survives by theft, but he dreams of turning the station's public-address system into a late-night Amharic radio show with a reggae beat. As the son of a Jewish father and a Christian mother, Gadi is like Menelik, the legendary son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Feeling misunderstood by Israelis, he misses his mother in Ethiopia and awaits a reply to his many letters which never come. The film follows Gadi's journey back to his birthplace in search of his past. A much-anticipated, emotional homecoming in Ethiopia reveals more about Gadi's present: his adopted Israeli identity.

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ONE UPPING THE 'ANTI'
CONFRONTING
HATE AND BIGOTRY

There are no easy answers or quick-fixes to the poison of hatred and bigotry that plagues our society. But the American Jewish Committee believes that we can make a difference – in the courts, in the schools, and in our communities. AJC seeks to build human bridges of understanding and mutual respect among all peoples. Through scholarly conferences, educational initiatives, exchange programs, in-depth publications, and newspaper advertisements we decry hatred and violence and work to replace them with tolerance and cooperation.

AJC advocates for the enactment of effective hate crimes and gun control legislation; the empowerment of law enforcement, within constitutional limits, to monitor and infiltrate hate groups; and full-scale Congressional hearings into the dangerous subculture of hate. We work with local organizations to combat hate groups and urge society's leaders to speak out forcefully and unequivocally to condemn prejudice and racism.

7:30PM FEATURED NORTHWEST PREMIERE
Sneak Preview

SPECIAL GUESTS: FILMMAKERS
AND CO-WRITERS SAM SEDER AND
CHARLES FISHER, INTRODUCED BY
WARREN ETHEREDGE, HOST OF
TALKCINEMA

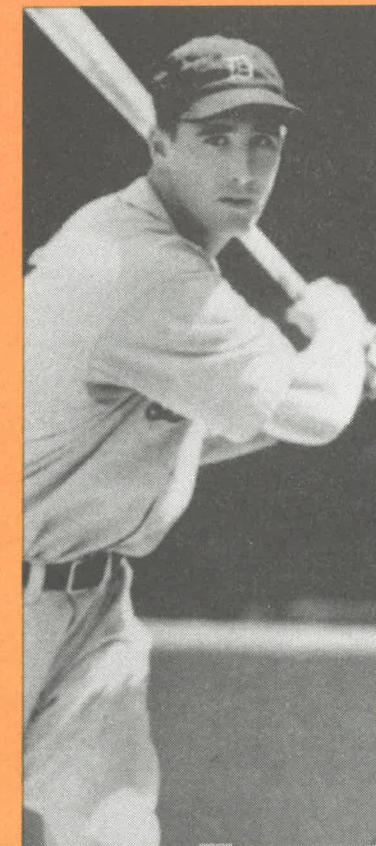
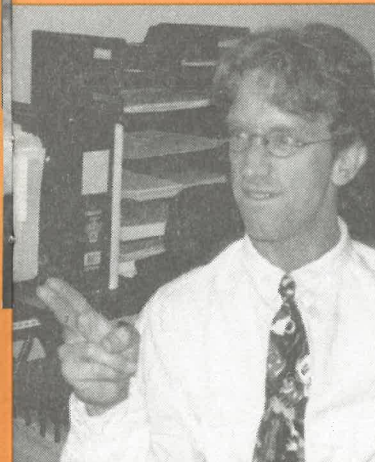
POST-FILM RECEPTION PRESENTED
BY THE YOUNG LEADERSHIP DIVISION
OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF
GREATER SEATTLE

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HANK GREENBERG*USA, 1999, 90 min.*
English w/Yiddish music
Aviva Kempner, Director

Sold out across the country, Aviva Kempner's award-winning documentary about the remarkable career of 1930s and '40s baseball great Hank Greenberg is a Yiddishe homerun. The New York Times calls her "valentine" to the Detroit Tiger's first baseman, "poignant, humorous" and "fascinating." As Hitler invaded Europe, this dashing young slugger challenged Lou Gehrig's RBI and Babe Ruth's homerun records. Some pitchers insisted on walking him, but the 6-foot-4-inch ballplayer gracefully withstood anti-Semitic jibes and defied racial stereotyping on and off the playing field. He even sat out on Yom Kippur during the World Series until a rabbi okayed him for play. The papers chimed: "Talmud Clears Greenberg" and "L'Shana Tovah" in Hebrew.

Greenberg's innate sense of decency, work ethic and noble decision to enlist in the Army during WWII made him a beacon of hope for American Jews. "Talk about the chosen people!" says one adoring fan interviewed in the film. Jam-packed with archival footage and more than 70 interviews with sportswriters, fans and celebrities, such as Ira Berkow, Alan Dershowitz, and Walter Mathau, the film will have you singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" ... in Yiddish.

SPECIAL GUEST: FILMMAKER
AVIVA KEMPNER



MONDAY
13TH

FREE FILM
SCREENING
AT UW
KANE HALL

7:00PM FREE SCREENING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Part of "The First Sephardic/Mizrahi Film Series"

LOCATION: UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON'S KANE HALL, ROOM 220

I MISS THE SUN

West Coast Premiere
USA, 1984, 20 min.
Mary Halawani, Director



THE STORY OF FRANK INY

West Coast Premiere
USA, 1999, 40 min.
Carole Basri, Director



These touching shorts study the history of two prominent Middle Eastern Jewish families: one from Iraq, one from Egypt. Both stories are told from the perspective of their American-born grandchildren.

**SPECIAL GUESTS: FILMMAKER
CAROLE BASRI, ESQ. AND DR. JERE
BACHARACH, DIRECTOR JACKSON
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**PRESENTED BY THE JEWISH
STUDIES PROGRAM AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**



THE FUTURE OF MEMORY VITAL HISTORY, VIBRANT VISIONS

"Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." As we enter a new century, the world continues to come to terms with last century's greatest tragedy, the Holocaust. The American Jewish Committee is deeply troubled by Holocaust denial and the refusal of governments and businesses to accept moral and financial responsibility for their role during World War II. AJC participates in Holocaust conferences around the world, disseminates in-depth publications on Holocaust denial and deniers, and conducts important research on knowledge and remembrance of the Holocaust in various countries.

Through efforts in America and our Berlin Office, AJC was instrumental in the German government's decision to set up a fund to compensate Holocaust survivors living in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Most recently, AJC's widely publicized list of hundreds of German companies that used slave or forced labor during the Nazi-era led to the substantial growth of a fund which will be used to compensate these aged laborers.

TUESDAY
14TH

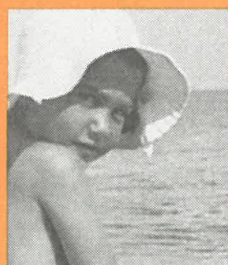
7:00PM

ZYKLON PORTRAIT

West Coast Premiere
Canada, 1999, 13 min. (short)
Elida Schogt, Director



With the intimacy of a family album and the artistry of a museum piece, *Zyklon Portrait* is a riveting collage of underwater photography, family interviews, home videos and instructional films straight from the science archives. Underneath the story of how the Nazis transformed Zyklon B gas from a bug pesticide to a genocidal weapon lies the portrait of three generations of women. Mother and filmmaker daughter try to reconcile an awful past with a hopeful future by shaping and giving form to unspeakable memories.



CHILDREN OF CHABANNES

Seattle Premiere
USA, 1999, 89 min.
English and French w/subtitles
Lisa Gossels and Dean Wetherell,
Directors



Despite the ruthless Vichy laws and the French government's collaboration with the Nazis, a tiny village in unoccupied France saved the lives of 400 Jewish refugee children. Filmmaker Lisa Gossels returned to Chabannes with her father and uncle – two child survivors – to tell the untold

tale of those who risked their lives and livelihoods to protect them simply because they felt it was the right thing to do. Interviewed are the extraordinary teachers who taught, loved and sheltered these children in a converted chateau. Their remarkable efforts make this a moving and lyrical film about courage, resilience and resistance.

**COSPONSORED BY VIDEO JUDAICA
AND THE WASHINGTON STATE
HOLOCAUST EDUCATION RESOURCE
CENTER**



9:00PM

VILNA

Northwest Premiere
USA, 1998, 3 min. (short)
Harvey Wang, Director



Before WWII, Vilna or Vilnius was the cultural capital of Europe and a hub of Jewish life. Shot in the ghettos of Vilna and Riga, Latvia, the film is a dreamscape of cobblestone, departing trolley cars and clouded memories. Filmmaker Harvey Wang admits that he didn't even attempt to document the unbearable destruction of this city and its inhabitants. Rather, his wispy film takes us on a short journey searching for Jewish life intangibly lost.



PORT OF LAST RESORT

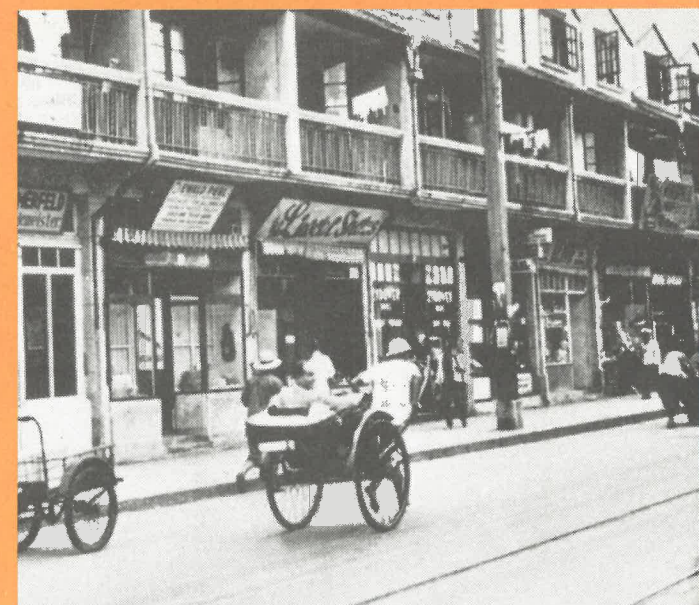
Northwest Premiere
USA/Austria, 1998, 79 min.
Joan Grossman and Paul Rosdy,
Directors



Between 1938 and 1941, when many of the world's borders were closed to the desperate Jews of Europe, nearly 20,000 refugees fled to the free port of Shanghai, China. No permits, no visas, and no paperwork were required to enter, so Jewish enclaves in Hongkew – known as "Little Vienna" or "the Paris of the East" – grew into cosmopolitan centers until under Japanese occupation a ghetto was established in 1943. Here, Jewish refugees suffered alongside fellow Chinese. This fascinating, little-known story is told through the recollections of former residents and evocative archival footage, some from Japanese propaganda films. Renegade composer John Zorn adds an Asian twist to his signature blend of klezmer and jazz.

**SPECIAL GUESTS: ROLF PREUSS,
HENRY AND GERDA HAAS,
REFUGEES WHO ESCAPED TO
SHANGHAI.**

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WEDNESDAY
15THFREE FOR
SENIORS
MATINEE

U.S. PREMIERE

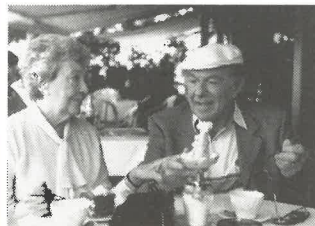
2:00PM FREE FOR SENIORS MATINEE

PASTRY, PAIN & POLITICS

West Coast Premiere
Switzerland, 1998, 30 min.
English, German and Yiddish
w/subtitles
Stina Werenfels, Director



On holiday in Switzerland, Fritz Weintraub winds up in the hospital after a minor heart attack. Under the care of a Palestinian nurse, the cantankerous New Yorker rails that all Arabs are terrorists. She thinks all Jews are thieves and liars. When Mrs. Weintraub, a Holocaust survivor, decides to take a weekend bus tour of Switzerland all hell breaks loose. An unexpected twist with a happy ending make this black comedy a sparkling gem.

THE PERSONALS
IMPROVISATIONS ON ROMANCE
IN THE GOLDEN YEARS

Northwest Premiere
USA, 1998, 37 min.
Keiko Ibi, Director

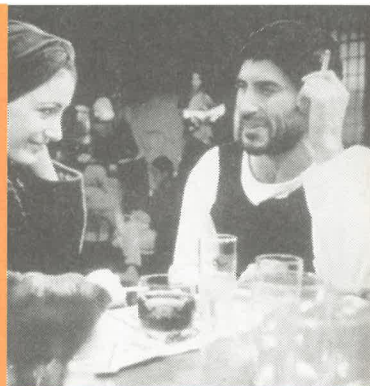
Director Keiko Ibi – a Japanese girl from Tokyo and NYU film student – surprised everyone when she won the Academy Award for Best Short Documentary for *The Personals*. Her portrayal of the Alliance Stage Company, a Jewish senior citizens' theatre group on New York's Lower East Side, is candid, humorous and touching. The film follows the company's play based on "personal ads" written newspaper-style by each cast member describing their assets and ideal mate. On and offstage, the seniors address issues facing older people, such as loneliness, failing health and financial insecurity. Their longing for love, sex and companionship imbues their theatrical undertakings and drives their zest for an inspired life in the Golden Years.

THE SHVITZ

Northwest Premiere
USA, 1993, 47 min.
Some Yiddish
Jonathan Berman, Director



Here's the rub... *shvitz* is Yiddish for sweating, a.k.a. bathhouses for ritual healing, massages and steamy relaxation. This film shows us how the sweats came into existence, why most shut down and captures the fading subculture of the authentic Russian bathhouses – the last remaining and still thriving on the Lower East Side. Like the cigar bars of the '90s, the shvitz is a place where men congregate habitually. We meet a group of hefty, mature devotees kibbitzing in the nude. Ladies nights and co-ed hours, however, have kept the baths afloat. Berman's film is part nostalgia, part stand-up comedy with a little nudity thrown in for fun. The Greek chorus of seniors on the Coney Island boardwalk makes this movie a priceless piece of Jewish history.



7:00PM

FROM SWASTIKA
TO JIM CROW

Northwest Premiere
USA, 1999, 57 min.
Lori Cheatle, Steven Fischler,
Joel Sucher and Martin D. Toub,
Directors/Producers



In the 1930s when Hitler came to power, German-Jewish professors were expelled from prominent faculty positions. Likewise in America, these "refugee professors" encountered domestic anti-Semitism. Shunned by most American universities during the Depression, black colleges in the then-segregated South became an unlikely setting for their employment. Mutual sympathy as targets of discrimination helped them forge amazing and long-lasting bonds with colleagues and students who recount the profound impact these professors had on their lives, especially during Civil Rights. A fascinating documentary about strangers in a strange land.

ANTIRACIST

US Premiere
Sweden, 1998, 25 min.
Swedish w/subtitles
Liv Weisberg, Director



Instead of paying attention to the victims of racism and xenophobia, Swedish filmmaker Liv Weisberg focuses on those fighting intolerance in nuanced and proactive ways. We are introduced to three youth activists: an Uruguayan immigrant working for the Stockholm-based Youth Against Racism, a human rights organizer and a former skinhead turned anti-Fascist leader. A vivid and refreshing look at what the media often glosses over. This important film was produced by England's European Multiracial Media Agency (EMMA) and IBT, a broadcasting trust set up by the likes of Amnesty International and Friends of the Earth.

EVENING HOSTED BY NORTHWEST
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPECIAL GUESTS: FILMMAKERS
STEVEN FISCHLER AND JOEL
SUCHER, AND PROFESSOR
THADDEUS SPATLEN, CO-CHAIR
AFRICAN AMERICAN/JEWISH
COALITION FOR JUSTICE, IN CON-
VERSATION WITH TERRE RYBOVICH,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NWCFFD

THURSDAY
16TH

7:00PM

KADOSH (SACRED)

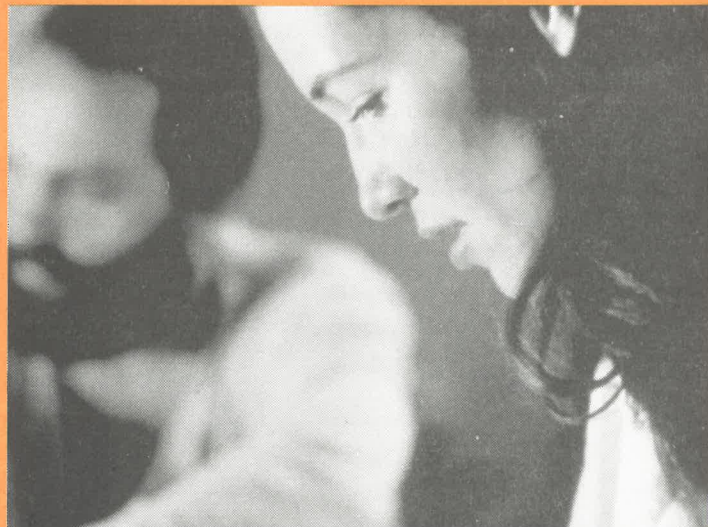
Northwest Premiere
Israel, 1999, 120 min.
Hebrew w/subtitles
Amos Gitai, Director



In the ultra-orthodox Jerusalem neighborhood of Mea Shearim, Rivka and Meir are deeply in love after 10 years of marriage but unable to have children. When the rabbi implores Meir to divorce and marry a fertile woman, the couple is sent into a tailspin. Meanwhile, Rivka's younger sister, Malka, is in love with a man banished from the community. She considers leaving the fold when pressured to enter an arranged marriage. All are torn by agonizing conflicts between romantic love and religious devotion. Amos Gitai, Israel's acclaimed director, explores women's dilemmas in ultra-Orthodoxy but develops this complex and controversial subject with sympathy and impeccable clarity. One of the best regarded films at this year's Cannes Film Festival, *Kadosh* is

sure to inspire vibrant post-film discussion led by two Jewish community leaders.

SPECIAL GUESTS: RIVY POUPKO
KLETENIK, DIRECTOR OF JEWISH
EDUCATION SERVICES FOR THE
JEWISH EDUCATION COUNCIL OF
THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF
GREATER SEATTLE AND RABBI
DAN BRIDGE, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF HILLEL/UW



9:00PM

HOLLYWOODISM
JEWS, MOVIES AND THE
AMERICAN DREAM

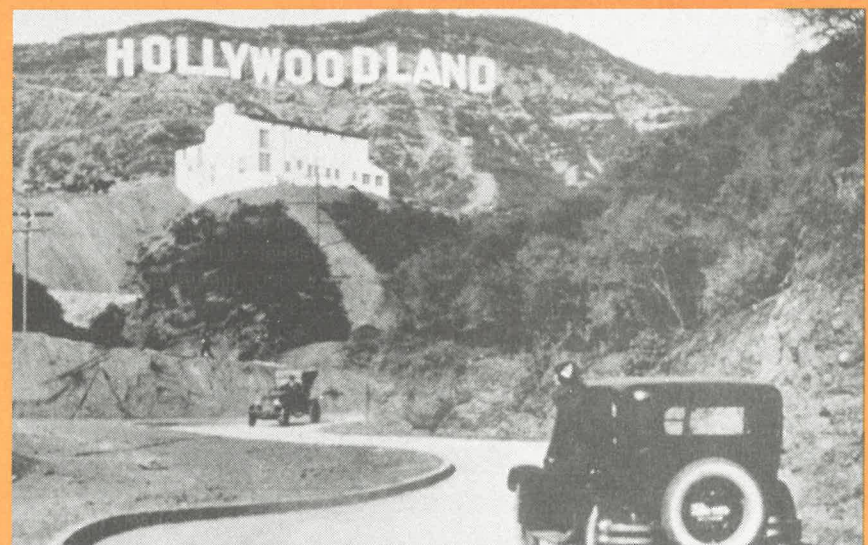
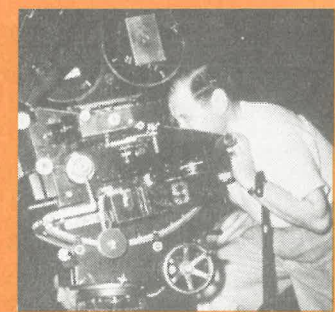
Canada, 1995, 89 min.
Simcha Jacobovici, Director



Based on Neal Gabler's best-selling book, *Empire of Their Own: How the Jews Invented Hollywood*, comes this briskly paced, captivating documentary about the founding fathers of American cinema. The Zukors, Warner Brothers and Mayers were East European immigrants who transformed deep-seated personal dreams into shimmering public fantasies with the technological novelty of film. Their films projected an American Dream filled with picket fences, virtuous heroes and "White Christmas" carols. Despite this assimilationist fanfare, they were called in front of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) in the 1950s. These business "moguls" lorded over artists and studios, but the hearings – driven by anti-Semitism – reduced them

in the public eye. This is an unforgettable behind-the-scenes movie about the movie industry as it has never been seen before.

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SATURDAY 18TH

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7:00PM EVERYONE'S A CRITIC!
Post-Screening schmooze with film critics Lucy Mohl and Warren Etheredge

SEA HORSES
Northwest Premiere
Israel, 1998, 17:30 min.
Hebrew w/subtitles
Nir Bergman, Director

Ten-year-old Noam's parents have decided to separate. While his mother works, he balances taking care of his younger sister and love-sick older sister. On the apartment balcony he does a more daunting balancing act, telling himself that if he does not fall his parents will get back together. Naom doesn't fall, but sadly life is not that simple.



EMPORTE-MOI (Set Me Free)
Seattle Premiere
Canada/Switzerland/France,
1999, 94 min. French w/subtitles
Léa Pool, Director



At thirteen, Hanna is at a difficult age. She is growing into womanhood in a household where her French-Jewish father, a washed-up poet and tormented soul, and fragile Quebecois Catholic mother both love and hate each other. She is even more the outsider at the Catholic school she attends. Escaping to Montreal's darkened movie houses, Hanna worships the bewitching femme fatale of Jean-Luc Godard's *Vivre sa vie*. Hanna spirals downward until her loving brother, adoring girlfriend and a hand-held camera set her free. Actress Karine Vanasse is marvelous as the awkward Hanna, a young filmmaker to be, in this tender coming-of-age story and semi-autobiographical film.

SPECIAL GUESTS: LUCY MOHL, PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR - REAL NETWORKS, FORMER FILM CRITIC, AT NBC NEWS AND KIRO TV, AND FOUNDER OF FILM.COM WITH WARREN ETHEREDGE, HOST OF SEATTLE'S TALKCINEMA AND "THE WARREN REPORT" (KQBZ 100.7)



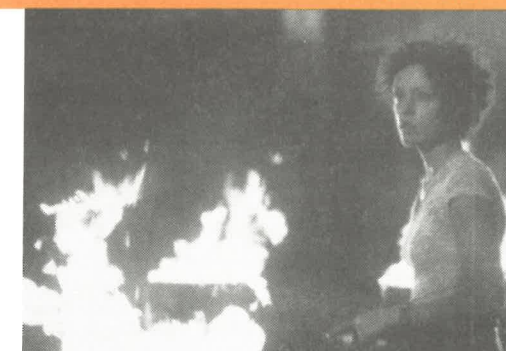
9:30PM

VILNA
See page 11

MESCHUGGE: THE GIRAFFE
Northwest Premiere
Germany, 1998, 107 min.
English and some German w/subtitles
Dani Levy, Director



From the people who brought you *Run Lola Run* comes a nail-biting thriller of mistaken identity that will keep your *tuchas* on the edge of its seat. An elderly Jewish woman is found dead in the corridor of a New York hotel. During the police investigation, her son played by director Dani Levy meets a ravishing German woman seemingly involved in the mysterious circumstances of his mother's death. Their mutual attraction grows as the plot thickens. Suspense and suspicion threaten to undermine their relationship as they uncover a crime that tragically links their families.



SUNDAY 19TH

FAMILY DAY

BAGEL AND FILM BRUNCH

10:00AM BAGELS/10:45AM FILMS
FROM BIRTH TO BRIS AND BEYOND
THE CHILDREN IN OUR LIVES REMIND US OF THE PAST, DRAW US TOWARDS HERITAGE AND RITUAL PRACTICE, AND ULTIMATELY PROPEL US INTO THE FUTURE. AS A SERIES OF SHORTS, THESE FILMS TAKE US ON THAT JOURNEY. APPROPRIATE FOR ALL AGES.

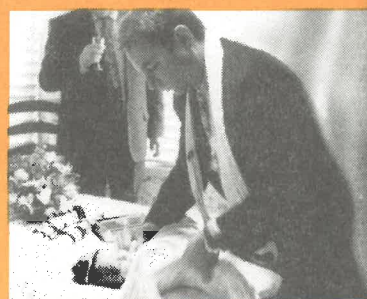
A WORLD TO COME
West Coast Premiere
USA, 1999, 4:35 min.
Mira Scharf, Director

This colorful animated story about reincarnation is based on a Jewish *midrash* (Biblical storytelling). *A World to Come* is a rhyming tale about two babies (or souls) living in a mysterious world with a heavenly angel. They discuss life and the hereafter. When their world comes to an abrupt end, we discover that what happens next is only a beautiful new beginning.

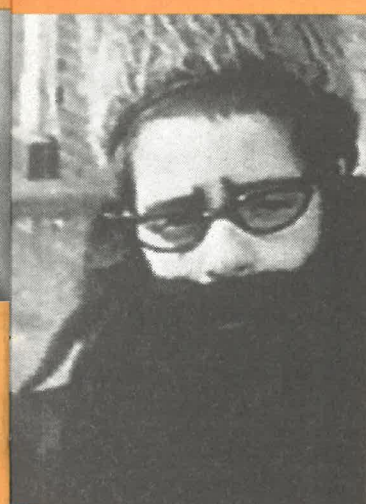
L.A. MOHEL
Northwest Premiere
USA, 1999, 30 min.
David Bezmozgis, Director



There are probably as many jokes about Los Angeles as there are about *mohels* (Jewish ritual circumcisers). Dispensing with stereotypes and caricatures long-associated with the profession, this documentary explores the lives of three popular L.A. mohels. We follow a young cell-phone wielding doctor nicknamed "The Mohel to the Stars," an Orthodox rabbi with 11,000 circumcisions under his belt, and a nurse-midwife as they perform the ceremony for a host of Jewish communities - secular and religious, Sephardic and Ashkenaz. In their own voices and shot in verité style, we gain an understanding of what it



means to perform a 3,700 year-old ceremony in America's most modern city. Balancing both humor and emotion - which the *bris* ceremony naturally evokes - *L.A. Mohel* is a crowd pleaser.



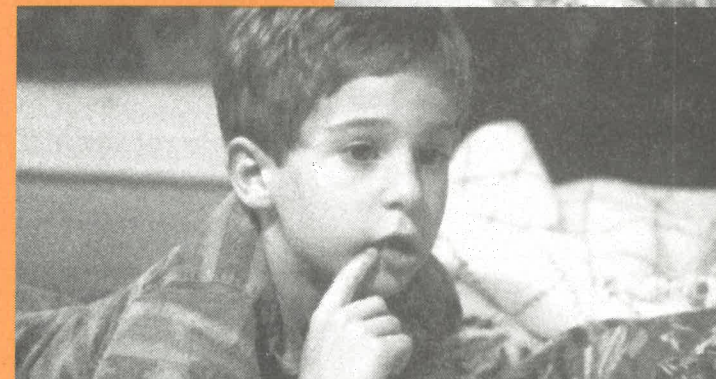
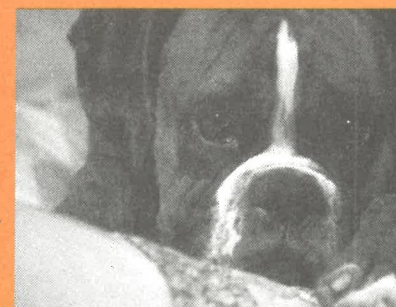
PURIM
Northwest Premiere
USA, 1998, 5 min. (silent)
Madeline Schwartzman, Director

Two days from now, on Tuesday, March 21st, the joyous holiday of Purim begins. Based on the story of Queen Esther who disguised herself in order to save the Persian Jews from the evil hands of King Haman, children are encouraged to celebrate in costume. *Purim*, the film, captures an unusual portrait of Hasidic children in Boro Park, Brooklyn, who really do it up on this topsy-turvy day: boys dress as girls and vice versa; young dress as old; sacred objects come to life; "secular" Halloween costumes surface; and mock kings and queens parade in the streets.

GOD@HEAVEN
Northwest Premiere
USA, 1999, 20 min.
Joseph Neulight, Director



What happens when a little boy sends an E-mail to God? This endearing short about looking for the Divine on-line, takes us from the computer to the Western Wall in Israel and everywhere in between. A boy-dog story for the computer age.



SUNDAY
19TH

FAMILY DAY

DOUBLE
MATINEE

12:30 DOUBLE MATINEE

FLORENTINE Part II

Northwest Premiere
Israel, 1996, 150 min.
Hebrew w/subtitles
Eyton Fox, Director



Last year SJFF showed *Florentine* Part I (episodes one through six) and many of you got hooked. Back by popular demand, we are proud to present the next five episodes of this wildly popular Israeli TV series. No introduction needed – jump right in! Combining a *Friends*-like portrayal of '90s culture with more substance, politics and a distinctly Euro flair, *Florentine* possesses an originality that distinguishes it from anything seen on American TV. After the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the close-knit group of friends living in Tel-Aviv's funky, bohemian Florentine neighborhood huddle together through the Peres-Netanyahu elections, terrorist bus bombings and personal dramas. The show's rootedness in contemporary Israeli issues, straight-

forward (and sometimes steamy) depictions of both gay and straight relationships, and cast of Israel's best young actors make it hip, refreshing and relevant. Director Eyton Fox is one of Israel's hottest talents. He packs an unexpected emotional punch that is guaranteed to get you hooked. SJFF expects *Florentine* will be an annual habit.



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SUNDAY
19TH

FAMILY DAY

CHILDREN'S
MATINEE

DOUBLE
FEATURE

CLOSING
NIGHT

2:30PM CHILDREN'S MATINEE

For adults and children 10 and up

GOD@HEAVEN

See page 17

ANNE FRANK'S DIARY

West Coast Premiere
France, Ireland, UK, Netherlands,
Luxembourg, 1997, 87 min.
English (Animated)
Julian Y. Wolff, Director



Anne Frank is by far this century's most famous and tragic diarist. The story of the young Jewish girl who died in a concentration camp at age fifteen has been told many times and in many dif-



ferent ways. This animated new version makes her story easily accessible for a new generation without losing the power of the original text. We meet Anne on her 13th birthday before her family goes into hiding – scenes undocumented in previous tellings. Amsterdam is colorfully depicted as a magical city through which the typical teen rides her bike, attends school and gossips with classmates, but she is keenly aware of her changing surroundings. Once in hiding, the film focuses on life in the secret annex above her father's office. Animation brings a fresh and sensitive quality to Anne's internal struggles with life in isolation. The film is compelling without being maudlin. Its greatest virtue is to encourage anyone who sees it to read the actual diaries.

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YOUNG JUDAEA AND THE SEATTLE
CHAPTER HADASSAH

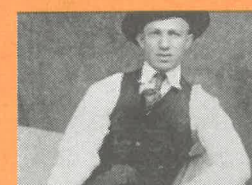
4:00PM DOUBLE FEATURE

DELTA JEWS

Northwest Premiere
USA, 1998, 57 min.
Mike Dewitt, Director



The Mississippi Delta is known for catfish not gefilte fish, levees not Levi's, and the Blues not Jews. For over a century, however, "the most Southern place on Earth" has been home to a thriving Jewish community deeply rooted in Bible Belt soil. Delta Jews have forged a hybrid identity profoundly Jewish and distinctly Southern. Narrated by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Alfred Uhry (*Driving Miss Daisy*), this frank and compassionate film traces a dwindling community's proud history and examines the challenges Jews face in a society steeped in black-white antagonisms and a Christian way of life.



YIDL IN THE MIDDLE

Northwest Premiere
USA, 1999, 57 min.
Marlene Booth, Director



Herring and chopped liver lunches were enough to embarrass filmmaker Marlene Booth as a schoolgirl growing up Jewish in Iowa. Living in Cambridge, Mass. with her family today, Booth grew so weary of neighbor's hoots and hollers when she told them she was a Jew from Des Moines, she decided to make a film about it. Weaving home movies, old photographs and interviews with friends and family, *Yidl in the Middle* is an honest, personal look at two rich and



distinctly opposed cultures. Booth's mother was the Jewish force in her life while her father – a high school track star and local fireman – was lowan to the core. It's a funny, warm film that both celebrates and raises questions about Jewish identity that can't be resolved easily.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTION BY
RAPHAEL SOIFER,
THE FILMMAKER'S SON.

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7:30PM CLOSING NIGHT FILM

AFTER THE END OF THE WORLD

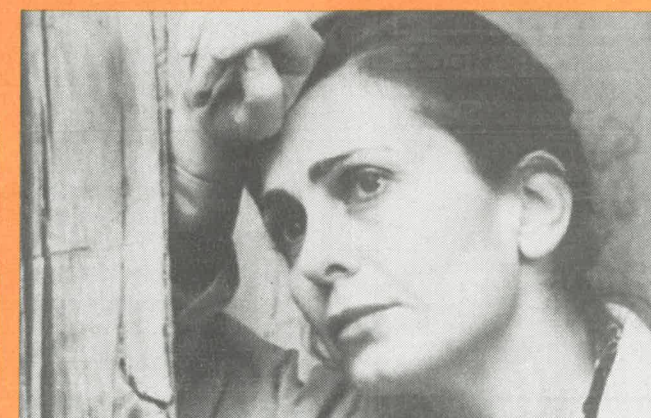
Northwest Premiere
Bulgaria, Germany, Greece
1999, 108 min.
Bulgarian w/subtitles
Ivan Nichev, Director



Albert Cohen, an Israeli history professor, returns to the city of his birth in Bulgaria to give a lecture. Instead, he begins a sentimental journey into the past after running into his first love, an Armenian girl whom he thought had emigrated to France. The

two rediscover each other and recall their childhood kisses and pranks in the unique atmosphere of Plovdiv in the 1940s. Plovdiv is one of the oldest cities in the Balkans, where Bulgarians, Armenians, Turks, Jews, Romas and Greeks supposedly lived in harmony before Stalin's purges, Communism and WWII ended this idyllic world as they knew it. With warmth and humor, esteemed director Ivan Nichev brings us an enchanting story from the "lost" Balkan world where the local priest, rabbi and mullah played cards and drank together.

SPECIAL GUEST: DR. DAN CHIROT,
PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES AND SOCIOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
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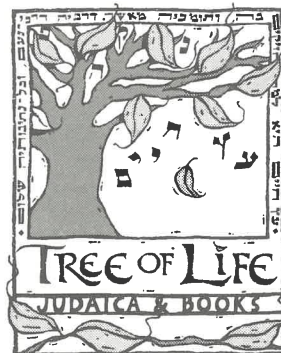


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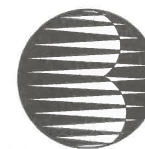
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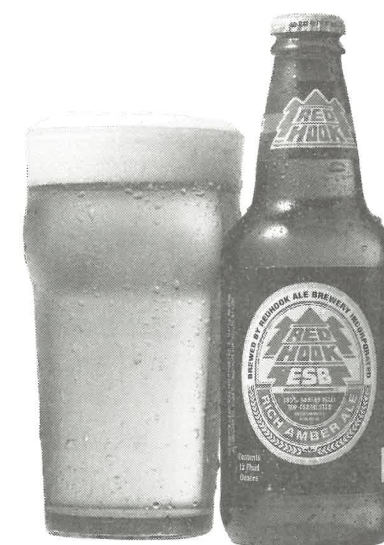
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TRANSCRIPT

THE JEWISH
WASHINGTON'S ONLY JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE

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I N F O

SCREENINGS

All screenings begin promptly at the announced time.
All programs subject to change.
Information about changes will be announced on our
info-line: 206.622.6315.
Films are not rated and may contain graphic language or
adult situations. Please see our key for flagged films.

SEATING

Passholder seating reserved until 10 minutes prior to start
of screening (Sponsors, Full and Half Pass holders).
Seating is limited, advance purchase is recommended.

THEATER PARKING INFORMATION

All screenings take place at the City Centre Theatre (except Mon. 3/13).
The City Centre Theatre is located inside the US Bank Centre Building
6th and Union, Third Floor Downtown Seattle.
3 hour parking validation will be available at the Box Office.

INDIVIDUAL TICKET PRICES

\$7.50 General Admission
\$6.00 AJC Members, Seniors & Students
Also for members: 911 Media Arts, WigglyWorld,
Three Dollar Bill Cinema and Cinema Seattle.
\$4.00 Pre Bar-Bat Mitzvah (under age 13)

SPECIAL EVENT PRICES

Sorry, no discounts available
\$18.00 5th Anniversary Opening Night Gala
\$12.00 Adult, \$6.00 Kids Bagel & Film Brunch

FESTIVAL PASSES

A festival pass is a fantastic deal – it guarantees you a seat at the show.
a) \$100.00 Fall Festival Pass – Admission to all events and screenings
b) \$80.00 AJC Pass – Full pass at a discount for members
c) \$60.00 Half Pass – Opening Night Gala, Bagel & Film Brunch
plus five screenings
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 Box Office at
206.390.7791

SJFF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers will receive a pair of tickets for every volunteer shift.
Volunteers who work three or more shifts receive a volunteer pass
good for Bagel & Film Brunch plus five screenings.
Please contact SJFF at 206.622.6315 or visit our website
www.ajcseattle.org

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AS A 5TH ANNIVERSARY BONUS, IT'S ON US!
Pre-purchase a Full or Half Festival Pass or tickets to at least
5 individual screenings and try AJC for free. We figure the
best way to answer the question: "Just what is the AJC?"
is not at the info booth at the SJFF, but through a year of
getting to know the AJC from the inside: as a member!
Receive the AJC Journal from New York, be invited to local
programs sponsored by the Seattle Chapter and find out
for yourself how the work of the AJC relates to or even
may enrich your own values.
This trial membership offer is available only to new mem-
bers. Current Members: your continued support
is appreciated!

T I C K E T O R D E R F O R M

22 | 23

FILM	DATE	TIME	PRICE	SUBTOTAL
OPENING NIGHT GALA w/ Yana's Friends	3/11	7:30	\$18.00	
Menelik w/ The Color of Jewish	3/12	1:00	\$7.50	
Who's the Caboose?	3/12	3:00	\$7.50	
The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg	3/12	7:30	\$7.50	
FREE SCREENING AT THE UW I Miss the Sun & The Story of Frank Iny	3/13	7:00	FREE	
Children of Chabannes w/ Zyklon Portrait	3/14	7:00	\$7.50	
Port of Last Resort w/ Vilna	3/14	9:00	\$7.50	
FREE FOR SENIORS MATINEE Pastry, Pain & Politics, The Personals & The Shvitz	3/15	2:00	Seniors FREE \$7.50	
From Swastika to Jim Crow w/ Antiracist	3/15	7:00	\$7.50	
Kadosh	3/16	7:00	\$7.50	
Hollywoodism	3/16	9:00	\$7.50	
EVERYONE'S A CRITIC Emporte-Moi w/ Sea Horses	3/18	7:00	\$7.50	
Meschugge: The Giraffe w/ Vilna	3/18	9:30	\$7.50	
BAGEL AND FILM BRUNCH A World to Come, L.A. Mohel, Purim & GOD@heaven	3/19	10:00	Adult \$12.00 Children \$6.00	
Florentene	3/19	12:30	\$7.50	
CHILDREN'S MATINEE Animated Anne Frank's Diary w/ GOD@heaven	3/19	2:30	Adult \$7.50 Children \$4.00	
DOUBLE FEATURE Delta Jews and Yidl in the Middle	3/19	4:00	\$7.50	
CLOSING NIGHT After the End of the World	3/19	4:00	\$7.50	
FULL PASS			\$100.00	
AJC MEMBER PASS			\$80.00	
HALF PASS			\$60.00	
SJFF Sponsorship supports our Senior Matinee, FILMTalks! and Community Tickets program. If you would like to receive passes to all above screenings, events and attend the VIP dinner at Il Fornaio on March 12th, sign up for sponsorship now or call AJC for more information.			\$250.00	
			\$500.00	
			\$1000.00	
			TOTAL	

All Films are shown at Lowes Cineplex City Centre Theatre except for screenings at the UW on March 13th at Kane Hall, Room 220.

SJFF 2000 BOX OFFICE

ORDERING IS EASY, BUT HURRY,
SEATING IS LIMITED – DON'T GET
SOLD OUT! ADVANCE PURCHASE IS
RECOMMENDED.

ADVANCED TICKET SALES

Advance tickets are non-refundable.
Tickets ordered by mail, phone, fax or
e-mail will be held at City Centre box
office (Sixth & Union, Third floor).

BY MAIL

Complete form and mail by March 6th to:
AJC/SJFF 1402 Third Ave. Suite 1415
Seattle, WA 98101

BY PHONE

Call Mon-Fri 10am-8pm 206.390.7791
or Fax to 206.622.3015

AJC/SJFF Box Office will be open Mon-Fri
10am-6pm March 1st through 11th only.
1402 Third Ave. Suite 1415
Seattle, WA 98101

The City Centre Box Office will be open
1 hour prior to screenings beginning
March 11th.

See pg. 7 for screening lengths.

QUESTIONS?

Call SJFF at 206.622.6315 or
e-mail info@ajcseattle.org

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