

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE PRESENTS

SIXTH ANNUAL
THE SEATTLE
JEWISH
FILM FESTIVAL

March 10th - 18th 2001
Cinerama Theatre

VIEW SAVOR DISCUSS

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Festival Director

Gregg Lachow
Film Curator

Rebecca Lackman
PR and Events Manager

Dara Ayres
FILMTalks! Coordinator

Shmuel Rubinstein
Development Coordinator

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WELCOME

Dear Friends,

"What does it mean to be Jewish?" This is the central question that we explore while previewing films for SJFF. The richness and diversity of the Jewish experience is fascinating and vast. In watching the tapes, our quest took us on an inner journey – renewing our individual dialogue about our own Jewish identity. Thought provoking and artistic, these films also took us on an emotional ride from sadness and frustration to pride and joy with laughter sprinkled throughout. It occurred to us that this film festival may be the best forum to explore this question, and the thought of watching our line-up with you, in this state-of-the-art theater, is exciting.

This year we watched over 200 films from the US, Israel and many other countries. We strove to reflect the current state of filmmaking around the world and chose our films with quality as our highest criteria. As in years past, we discovered that this year's selection explores new topics and offers fresh insights into familiar subjects.

The "Future of Memory" continues to fascinate us as film takes on an increasingly important role in the preservation of personal histories and oral traditions. The decreasing costs of film production, the passing of a generation, and the contrast between European Jewish history and what is happening in Israel today have all led to an explosion of films focused on the evolution of memory. Our film selection is sure to provoke lively discussion. So, on our closing day, we will provide an entire panel of experts to address this issue.

We also found that Israeli film continues to open windows of insight into the country's evolution and the extreme diversity of the cultures that strive to survive together. While the current state of politics is not directly addressed in any one film, it is a thread woven into all of the films in our "Modern Israel: At Peace with Pluralism?". programming element.

Speaking of politics... Jews were among the creators and victims of many of the 20th-century's most influential social and political ideologies. This year we will look at the history of ideas through a Jewish lens with a third programming element, "Visions of Utopia: Political Dreams and Nightmares", exploring the impact of Jewish intellectualism.

Lastly, we will offer films that enable us to celebrate the triumph of life over adversity. To us, this is the strongest answer to the question. "What does it mean to be Jewish?" Each night of the festival illustrates the power of *chutzpah* and its continual ability to sustain and renew our culture. We hope that our selection will give you the opportunity to explore your own answers to this question.

We take this opportunity to thank Film Curator Gregg Lachow, whose passion for film—as well as his integrity and amazing curatorial talent—are reflected in this diverse line-up; Starbucks Coffee Company and Vulcan Enterprises for their generosity; and the many volunteers whose efforts have made this festival possible.

We look forward to your enthusiastic participation and hope you enjoy this year's festival.

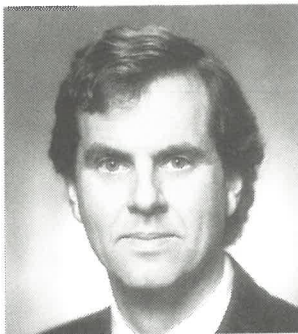
Amanda Molly Sedwick

Festival Co-Chairs:
Amanda Lyon, Molly Sedlik, Derrick Chasen



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L E T T E R S



Shalom,

As the nation's pioneer human relations agency, the American Jewish Committee was created to combat all forms of bigotry and discrimination, promote human rights, and advocate public policy positions rooted in American democratic values. Since 1906, the American Jewish Committee has brought people of all races, ethnicities and religions together to openly address the most pressing challenges of our day.

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

If replication is the highest form of flattery, then the Greater Seattle Chapter has a great deal to be proud of. AJC chapters across the country are beginning to sponsor their own Jewish Film Festivals, as they recognize the powerful vehicle of film and its effectiveness in promoting the mission of our organization. It is also remarkable to witness this festival grow year after year while maintaining its continued dedication to the exploration of the art of film. Through this medium, the issues of diversity, tolerance, and cultural continuity are effectively opened for discussion.

As the festival celebrates its Sixth 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!

Sincerely,

David A. Harris
Executive Director, AJC National



Dear Friends,

Six years ago the board of the Seattle chapter of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) launched the Seattle Jewish Film Festival. When we began, we envisioned an event that would provide an arena in which all members of the Greater Seattle Community could share the richness and diversity of Jewish culture. That vision has been realized. SJFF has grown to become one of the five largest Jewish film festivals in the United States and, in the process, become our local chapter's signature program.

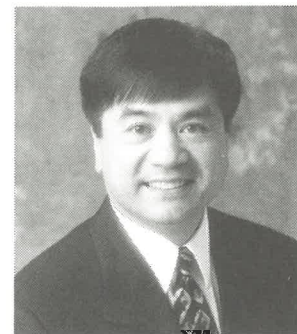
In 2001, SJFF promises once again to expand its reach. This year, we expect to host over 11,000 people from across the region. For many, the festival will be their first contact with the AJC. SJFF both mirrors and promotes the broad mission of the AJC and its goals of encouraging understanding, combating extremism, and nurturing pluralism. All SJFF programming, and especially FILMTalks!—which this year will bring together over 650 high school students from throughout the region—is designed to inspire insight and interaction among diverse segments of our community.

The American Jewish Committee is the oldest human rights agency in the United States. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining. Membership and tax-deductible contributions are the foundation upon which AJC builds local, national, and international programs. Your contributions make the SJFF and many other local programs that are central to AJC's core goals, possible. Since December, the Seattle chapter has sponsored four programs dealing with a range of important and timely topics, including Election 2000, the current Middle East crisis and the Israeli elections. In June, twenty high school students will receive the Max Block Award for Human Relations, continuing our forty-year tradition of promoting community outreach.

Thank you, to the SJFF and AJC staff who have given their all to make this festival our best yet: Molly Sedlik, Gregg Lachow, Rebecca Lackman, Shmuel Rubinstein, Dara Ayres, Rabbi Rick Harkavy, and Minda Martin. Last, I want to thank you, our audience, volunteers and supporters for your enthusiasm and participation over the past six years. Enjoy!

Warmly,

Deborah Rosen
President, AJC Seattle Chapter



Greetings:

As Governor of the state of Washington, I am pleased to welcome you to the Seattle Jewish Film Festival, hosted by the American Jewish Committee of Greater Seattle (AJC).

Since 1995, AJC has brought this festival to thousands of Washington residents, generously sharing in the rich culture of the Jewish community. Now in its sixth year, the festival showcases films dedicated to exploring the many aspects of Jewish life while reminding its viewers of the common threads of human experience.

I commend the AJC for its commitment to furthering diversity and tolerance. The AJC has been devoted to building bridges between Washingtonians of many backgrounds for over 50 years, and this festival is a shining example of that devotion. We all owe them a debt of gratitude for their untiring work.

Best wishes for a fun and successful festival!

Sincerely,

Gary Locke
Governor



To the Audiences of the Seattle Jewish Film Festival:

Now in its sixth year, the Seattle Jewish Film Festival has established itself as a cultural tradition and an expression of the affinity between Israel and the United States.

The American Jewish Committee's continued leadership in sponsoring and organizing this festival is a manifestation of the bond and brotherhood between American Jews and Israel. Throughout its existence, the American Jewish Committee has continuously widened the scope of its activity and its role in Jewish communal life. Your involvement in this special project brings the richness and diversity of life in Israel to a varied audience.

In the year that has passed since the last festival, Israel faced many challenges touching the most sensitive aspects of our life as a people and a nation. Nevertheless, cultural life has continued to flourish unhampered. The festival provides yet another opportunity to witness the development of cinematic art in Israel.

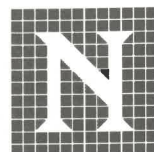
I am certain that this festival will lay an additional foundation in building bridges of cooperation and cultural exchanges between our two countries.

Sincerely,

Yossi Amrani
Consul General of Israel
Pacific Northwest Region

MAZEL TOV!

To the Seattle Jewish Film Festival
for another year of excellence
in Jewish Film



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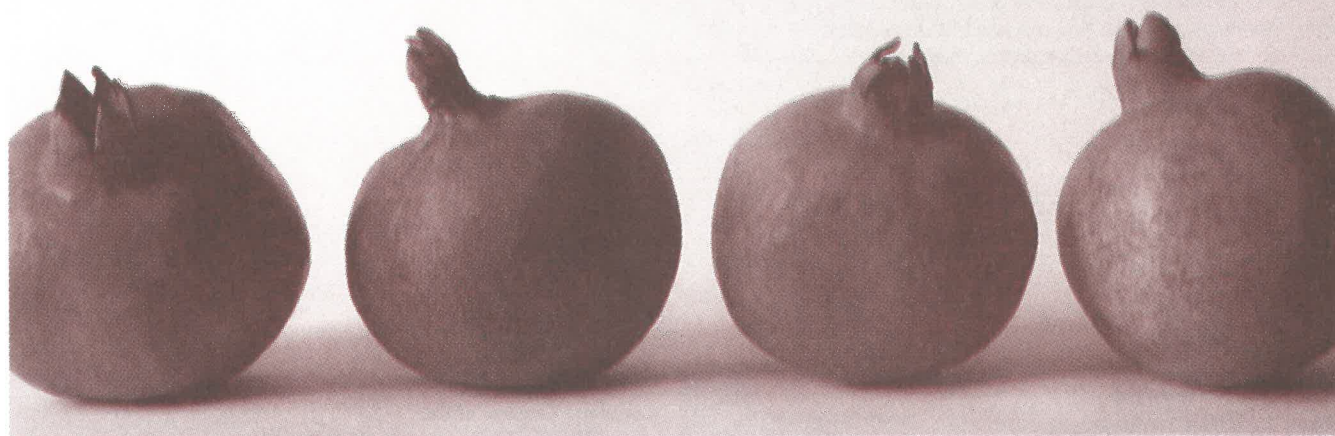
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FILMTalks!



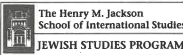
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FILMTALKS

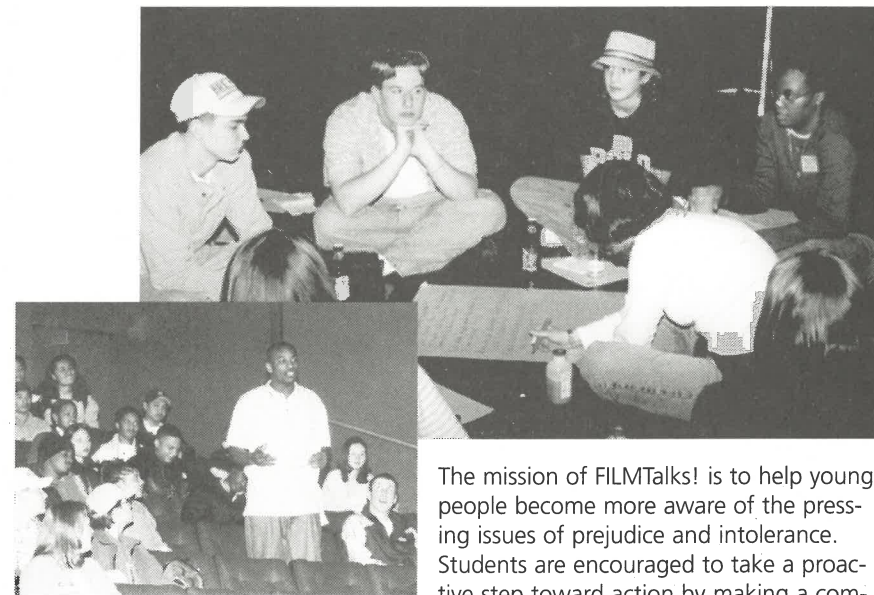
Filmtalks Sponsors:

The American Jewish
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ART...AWARENESS...ACTION

Presented by the American Jewish Committee with help
from the Northwest Coalition for Human Dignity

Now in its fourth year, FILMTalks! has become the American Jewish Committee's keystone educational program for youth. FILMTalks! is a daylong diversity education program free to local high school students, designed to foster respect and understanding among individuals of different backgrounds. At its core, FILMTalks! uses the engaging art of film to promote discussion and explore the difficult issues of diversity, prejudice and intolerance.

**THROUGH FILM WE REVEAL
OUR SIMILARITIES AND
DISCUSS OUR DIFFERENCES,
AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS PART
OF THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY.**

The mission of FILMTalks! is to help young people become more aware of the pressing issues of prejudice and intolerance. Students are encouraged to take a proactive step toward action by making a commitment to improve diversity relations. Using the American Jewish Committee's acclaimed educational program 'Hands Across the Campus' as its foundation, FILMTalks! is designed to stimulate thought, generate discussion, and challenge youth to break down social barriers by creating bridges of cultural understanding. Through film, 'town hall' discussions, and interactive sessions, FILMTalks! allows students from a cross-section of local high schools to exchange views on these issues in a safe and positive environment.

**THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE OF GREATER SEATTLE
IS PROUD TO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH, TO EMBRACE
DIVERSITY, AND STAND STRONG AGAINST BIGOTRY.**

This year FILMTalks! will bring together a record-breaking 675 students from the following schools in King and Pierce Counties to share experiences and exchange ideas.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

Auburn Riverside
American Indian Heritage
High School
Chief Sealth High School
Eastside Catholic High School
Franklin High School
Foss High School
Garfield High School
Ingraham High School
John F. Kennedy Memorial
High School
John Marshall High School
Kent-Meridian Senior
High School
Lincoln High School
Nathan Hale High School
Mount Tahoma High School
Rainier Beach High School
Roosevelt High School
Seattle Academy of Arts
and Sciences
Shorecrest High School
South Lake High School
Summit High School
University Preparatory Academy
West Auburn High School

See p.27 for more information.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

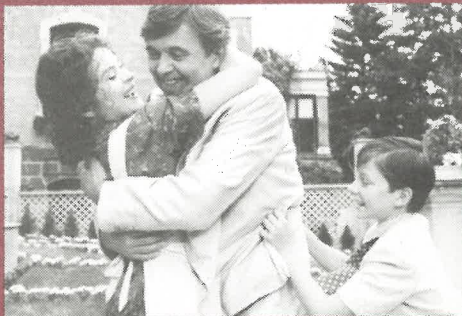
OPENING NIGHT

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 7:30PM

ALL MY LOVED ONES

Czechoslovakia's nominee for an Academy Award gets this year's festival off to a wonderful start. Set in 1939 just before the outbreak of war, *All My Loved Ones* is a tragicomic dance at the edge of a precipice, and a heart-warming story of an extraordinary deed. We will be serenaded beforehand by Tiferet, the first Jewish chanting group in the Northwest, and feted afterwards with a scrumptious dessert banquet presented by master chef Tom Douglas. (see page 12)

SPECIAL GUEST:
MUSIC BY TIFERET



DAYS AND NIGHTS OF MUSIC

In addition to the terrific scores of many of this year's films, we are delighted to include the following live musical highlights:

ALL MY LOVED ONES - OPENING NIGHT - MARCH 10th, 7:30

Music before and after by Tiferet, the first Jewish chanting group in the Northwest, under the musical direction of Stephen Merritt and the spiritual direction of Rabbi Ted Falcon.

THE LIFE OF THE JEWS IN PALESTINE - MARCH 11th, 4:00

This recently-unearthed silent film, hailed by one critic as a find comparable to discovering "images of Moses descending Mount Sinai," will be accompanied throughout by Lori Goldston, Kyle Hanson, and Don Crevie of the Black Cat Orchestra.

THE OPTIMISTS - MARCH 17th, 7:00 The US premiere of Jacky Comfory's thrilling film will be preceded by traditional and contemporary music of Bulgaria, performed by Seattle's own Balkan Time Zone.



THE JAZZMAN FROM THE GULAG - MARCH 18th, 12:00

Bassist Jon Sampson and trumpeter Jim Knodle will play music inspired by the life and work of Eddie Rosner, the "jazzman from the gulag."

FILM AND MEMORY

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 3:00PM

"The Future of Memory" has long been one of SJFF's most important themes. This program will explore that theme as it relates to film, art, and the Festival itself. Join our distinguished panel of guests for a thought-provoking afternoon of cinematic conversation. (see page 23)

POST FILM MODERATED DISCUSSION WITH SPECIAL GUESTS: FILMMAKERS JOAN STEIN, PETER FORGÁCS AND JACKY COMFORTY; MIRIAM GREENBAUM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WASHINGTON STATE HOLOCAUST EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER; AND JOANNE WEINER RUDOF, DIRECTOR, FORTUNOFF VIDEO ARCHIVES FOR HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES, YALE UNIVERSITY, IN A CONVERSATION ON "FILM AND MEMORY."



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SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

DATE	TIME	FILM	COUNTRY	LEGEND	LENGTH
SAT March 10th	7:30	OPENING NIGHT DESSERT GALA			
		Obsessed with Jews	USA		8m
		All My Loved Ones	Czechoslovakia	Ⓜ	1h 33m
SUN March 11th	12:00	Arguing the World	USA	Ⓜ?	1h 47m
	2:00	Dreams and Nightmares	USA	Ⓜ?	54m
	4:00	The Life of the Jews in Palestine	Russia	Ⓜ! Ⓜ	1h 20m
	5:00	VIP Il Fornaio Event			
	7:30	Sunshine	Canada/Hungary	Ⓜ? Ⓜ	3h
MON March 12th	7:00	Voyages	France	Ⓜ!	1hr 51m
	9:00	Village of Idiots	Canada		13m
		Obsessed with Jews	USA		8m
		Trailers	USA		3m
		Babcha	Israel	!	24m
		The Pleasures of Urban Decay	Canada/USA	Ⓜ	18m
TUE March 13th	7:00	Sister/Wife	Israel	!	1h
	7:30	The Engagement Party (Shown at the Seattle Art Museum)	USA	Ⓜ	88m
	9:00	Genesis	France/Mali		1h 40m
WED March 14th	2:00	FREE-FOR-SENIORS MATINEE			
		The Pleasures of Urban Decay	Canada/USA	Ⓜ	18m
		Madame Jacques sur la Croisette	France		37m
		Mah-Jongg: The Tiles That Bind	USA	Ⓜ	31m
	7:00	Homo Sapiens 1900	Sweden	Ⓜ! Ⓜ	1h 25m
	9:30	Evgueni Khaldei: Photographer Under Stalin	Belgium	Ⓜ? Ⓜ	1h 4m
THU March 15th	7:00	Cours Toujours (Dad on the Run)	France		1h 32m
	9:00	Last Resort	Israel	Ⓜ? Ⓜ! Ⓜ	1h 33m
SAT March 17th	7:00	The Optimists	USA	Ⓜ	1h 24m
	9:00	Fighter	USA	Ⓜ? Ⓜ	1h 30m
SUN March 18th	10:00	BAGEL & FILM BRUNCH			
		Jews and Buddhism: Belief Amended, Faith Revealed	USA		41m
		Seder Trek	Israel/Nepal	!	56m
	12:30	Lieba Perla	Israel	Ⓜ	55m
		The Jazzman from the Gulag	France/Netherlands	Ⓜ	58m
	3:00	The March	USA	Ⓜ	24m
		One Day Crossing	USA/Hungary	Ⓜ	25m
		Maelstrom: A Family Chronicle	Netherlands	Ⓜ	1h
	7:30	CLOSING NIGHT			
		Les Fantômes de Louba	France	Ⓜ! Ⓜ	1h 44m

LEGEND



THE FUTURE OF MEMORY

VITAL HISTORY, VIBRANT VISIONS
For millennia, Jews have struggled to maintain a distinct culture within an often hostile world. For many, this is a struggle that continues today. For others, the most vital concern has come to be not so much how to live in the present as how to remember the past. Increasingly, we have come to rely on the preservative powers of film as a counter to the inexorable recession of time. Are we now the People of the Image as well as the Book?



VISIONS OF UTOPIA

POLITICAL DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES
From the godless state of communism to the stateless G-d of Hasidism; the perfect state of Eugenics to the Jewish State of Israel, Jews were among the creators and victims of many of the 20th-century's most influential ideologies. These films examine how we got here, thus helping point the way to where we may be going.



MODERN ISRAEL

AT PEACE WITH PLURALISM?
Religious, cultural, ideological, geographical: few nations have struggled as mightily as Israel to cope with and reconcile the differences among its inhabitants. What does this modern melting pot teach us about our own communities and the future of democracy?



FLAG
CONTAINS ADULT
CONTENT



Noble Wines

dahlia
lounge



Western
Washington
Beverage

BAGEL AND FILM BRUNCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

10:00AM BAGELS / 10:30AM FILMS

The Bagel and Film Brunch has become one of the festival's major treats. This year, we journey to the mountains of Nepal with *Seder Trek*, and then join filmmaker Bill Chayes on a voyage of discovery with *Jews and Buddhism*. (see page 20)

SPECIAL GUEST:
FILMMAKER BILL CHAYES

APPROPRIATE FOR ALL AGES.
DIETARY LAWS OBSERVED.



Western
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SCREENING SCHEDULE

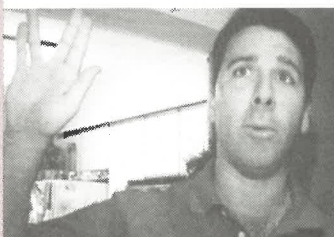
SATURDAY
10TH
OPENING NIGHT GALADESSERT
RECEPTION
BY TOM DOUGLAS

7:30PM

OBSESSED WITH JEWS

West Coast Premiere
USA 2000, 8 min, video
Jeff Krulik, Director

Jeff Krulik is a brilliant chronicler of the odd side of American culture. Here, he introduces us to accountant Neil Keller, who has amassed a remarkable collection of over 7,000 trading cards, photographs, matchbook covers, pins, and autographs of prominent Jewish people. Neil shows us his collection, and tells how he methodically catalogs the accomplishments, and documents the genealogy, of every famous, and infamous, Jew on Earth.



ALL MY LOVED ONES

Northwest Premiere
Czechoslovakia 2000, 93 min, 35mm
Czech w/ subtitles
Matej Minác, Director

Home and family are everything to small-town doctor Jacob Silberstein. But as life becomes harder for Jews, Jacob and his wife must decide whether to keep the family together or to send their only son to England. A loving tribute to the ties that

bind, this emotionally-charged feature was inspired by recollections of the director's mother, one of hundreds of Czech Jewish children saved by a Kindertransport organized by English stockbroker Nicholas Winton.

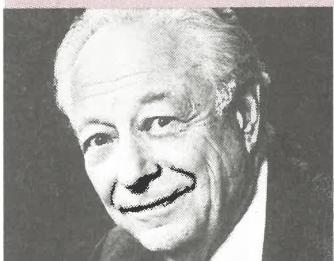
SPECIAL GUESTS: MUSIC BY TIFERET,
AND DONNY INBAR, ISRAELI CULTURAL
ATTACHESUNDAY
11THNORTHWEST
PREMIERESILENT FILM
WITH LIVE
MUSICAL
ACCOMPANIMENT

12:00PM

ARGUING THE WORLD

USA 1997, 107 min, 16mm
Joseph Dorman, Director

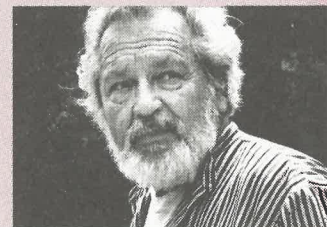
A portrait of four prominent Jewish intellectuals—Irving Howe, Irving Kristol, Daniel Bell and Nathan Glazer—all of who attended City College in the 1930s. Weaving personal reminiscence, archival footage, images of New York, and interviews with friends, critics, and historians, the film explores the passions, the issues, and the personalities that helped shape intellectual and political life in America.

CO-SPONSORED BY:
SECULAR JEWISH CIRCLE
OF WASHINGTON

2:00PM

DREAMS AND
NIGHTMARESUSA 1974, 54 min, 16mm
Abe Osheroff, Director

Brooklyn-born carpenter Abe Osheroff, now of Seattle, was wounded while fighting the fascists during the Spanish Civil War. He was a member of the International Brigade, whose ranks were over twenty-five



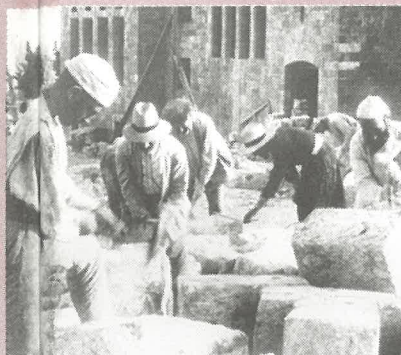
percent Jewish, with Yiddish as the common language. Some 35 years later he returns with a camera to Spain, still under Franco's rule, in search of validation of his youthful passion.

SPECIAL GUEST:
FILMMAKER ABE OSHEROFF

4:00PM

THE LIFE OF THE JEWS
IN PALESTINENorthwest Premiere
Russia 1913, 80 min, 35mm
Silent w/ English/Hebrew titles.
Noah Sokolovsky, Director

"Tears of happiness gleamed in the eyes of Jewish audiences, thirsty for redemption," said film exhibitor Yaacov Davidson, when *The Life of the Jews in Palestine* was first shown in European ghettos and market towns in 1913. The film depicts Middle Eastern and European Jews tilling fields, building schools, and laboring side by side to build the nation that would become Israel. This newly rediscovered and restored film, shot by Russian documentarian and active Zionist Noah Sokolovsky, is a striking document of political and cinematic history, a call for the Jews of the Diaspora to make *aliya* and join their brethren living, working, and praying in the land of milk and honey.

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT BY
LORI GOLDSTON, KYLE HANSON,
AND DON CREVIE OF THE BLACK
CAT ORCHESTRACO-SPONSORED BY:
NORTHWEST YESHIVA
HIGH SCHOOLSPECIAL GUEST: CHAYA BLAUT,
TEACHER OF JEWISH HISTORY
AT NORTHWEST YESHIVA
HIGH SCHOOL

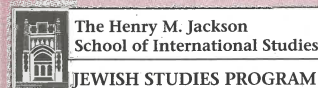
7:30PM

SUNSHINE

Canada/Hungary 2000
180 min, 35mm
Istvan Szabo, Director

Ralph Fiennes gives a tour-de-force performance as the patriarch of three successive generations of the Sonnenschein family. Academy Award winner Istvan Szabo and acclaimed playwright Israel Horowitz bring us the story of a Jewish family whose many fevered longings include the dream of someday belonging. Set in director Szabo's native Hungary, amidst political turmoil and war, the film spans 60 years of the 20th century. At once witty, seductive, and serious, *Sunshine* enters a fascinating territory where desire, family, politics, and a sextet of entangled lives converge.

CO-SPONSORED BY:

?! VISIONS OF UTOPIA
POLITICAL DREAMS
AND NIGHTMARES:

Self-government demands that each of us recognize our profound stake in the success of American democracy—and take moral and political responsibility for the quality of public life. Central to AJC is the involvement in a continuous debate about American public philosophy; on a practical level, this means assuming an active role in the public policy process. Guided by extensive, ongoing research, working alone and in coalition, AJC is a policy advocate. We promote policies that serve both the general public and reflect an appreciation of the many groups that make up the American nation.

This mission is implemented by AJC's varied events programming, and by participating in proposed legislation and judicial cases involving issues of church-state relations, religious freedom, racism and anti-Semitism, intergroup relations, immigration, public education, and civil rights.

SPECIAL GUESTS:
DR. SARAH ABREVAYA STEIN,
JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM,
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON,
AND VERONIKA SZABO, LECTURER
IN YIDDISH IN THE DIVISION OF
LITERATURE, CULTURES, AND
LANGUAGE, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

SCREENING SCHEDULE

MONDAY
12TH
NORTHWEST
PREMIEREPROGRAM OF
SHORTS

7:00PM

VOYAGES

Northwest Premiere
France 1999, 111 min, 35mm
French w/ subtitles
Emmanuel Finkiel, Director



A triptych of fictional stories exploring the lingering effects of loss, and the urgency of living in the here and now. A Parisian widow receives a call from a man claiming to be her long-lost father. A newly arrived 85 year-

old Russian immigrant wanders the streets of Tel Aviv looking for a distant cousin. A woman on a bus tour of Poland is left behind at a Jewish cemetery. An outstanding film from an important new voice in world cinema.

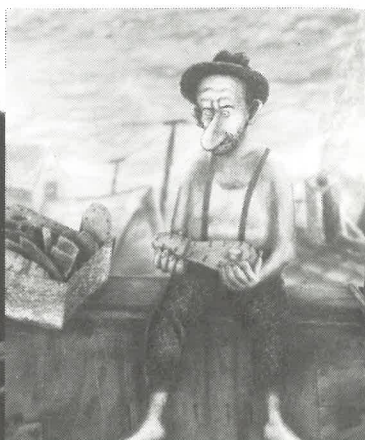


9:00PM

VILLAGE OF IDIOTS

Canada 1999, 13 min, 35mm
Eugene Fedorenko and
Rose Newlove, Directors

Based on a familiar Jewish folktale, *Village of Idiots* is the charmingly animated story of a Shmendrik, who leaves his village of Chelm in search of something better and discovers another village exactly like his own.



OBSESSED WITH JEWS

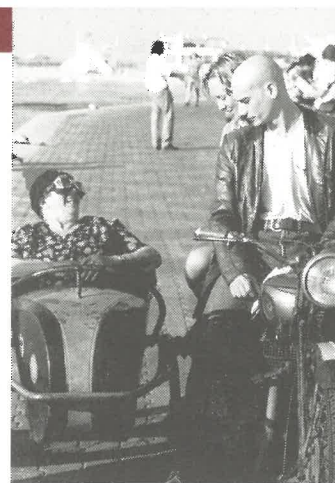
West Coast Premiere
USA 2000, 8 min, video
Jeff Krulik, Director

Jeff Krulik is a brilliant chronicler of the odd side of American culture. Here, he introduces us to accountant Neil Keller, who has amassed a remarkable collection of over 7000 trading cards, photographs, matchbook covers, pins and autographs of prominent Jewish people. Neil shows us his collection, and tells how he methodically catalogs the accomplishments, and documents the genealogy, of every famous, and infamous, Jew on Earth.

TRAILERS

U.S. Premiere
USA 2000 3 min, video
Jeff Krulik, Director

Two very funny trailers that Krulik created for another Jewish film festival. They were rejected, and we are pleased to present them.



BABCHA

Northwest Premiere
Israel 1999, 24 min, 16mm
Hebrew w/ subtitles. Micky
Zilbershtein, Director



Dror, a hip Israeli, "oldie-sits" his grandmother, a camp Survivor. With the help of a motorcycle, a trip to the beach and much black humor, they both try to cope with the past, and prepare for the future.

THE PLEASURES OF
URBAN DECAY

Northwest Premiere
Canada/USA 1999, 18 min, 16mm
Sam Ball, Director



An offbeat film about MacArthur Award recipient Ben Katchor, the creator of the great comic strip *Julius Knipl, Real Estate Photographer*. Katchor's Yiddish-inflected voice guides us through a vast and shadowy landscape of old skyscrapers, neglected warehouses and all-night cafeterias, peering behind the city's facades and through its cracks, turning New York's everyday trappings into urban poetry.

TUESDAY
13TH
U.S. PREMIERELOCAL
FILMMAKER
FORUM AT
SAM7:30PM AT THE
SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

THE ENGAGEMENT PARTY

USA 2000, 88 min, video
William Azaroff, Director



Bring in 'da goys! Bring in 'da Jews! A prematurely-planned engagement party tests the love, faith and patience of a young couple. Can the betrothed-to-be withstand neurotic parental pressures, traditional religious values and unorthodox family secrets? Or, will their marriage be shattered before the first glass has been stomped? Local filmmaker Azaroff's feature debut will be screened as a co-presentation of TheWarrenReport's DISTINGUISHING FEATURES series, which presents regionally produced feature-length films every month at the Seattle Art Museum.

SPECIAL GUEST:
LOCAL FILMMAKER
WILLIAM AZAROFF

7:00PM
AT THE CINERAMA

SISTER/WIFE

US Premiere
Israel 2000, 60 min, video
English/Hebrew w/subtitles



In the outskirts of Dimona lives another society, composed of African-Americans who believe they are descendants of one of the lost tribes of Israel. The film follows the story of Zipora, a religious and loving woman, who, after 21 years of marriage, wakes up one morning to a new reality. According to the customs of the Hebrew Israelites, who adopted their version of the Law of the Torah, a man can marry up to seven women. Zipora's husband, Hazriel, is about to take a second wife who is 14 years younger than she. Both will have to live under the same roof and share the same man. A stunning, heart-rending film.

CO-PRESENTED BY:
AFRICAN AMERICAN JEWISH
COALITION FOR JUSTICE

9:00PM

GENESIS

Northwest Premiere
France/Mali 1998, 100 min, 35mm
Bambara w/ subtitles.
Cheick Oumar Sissoko, Director

The breathtakingly beautiful desert plains of Mali provide the setting for this unusual African epic, a deeply poetic rendering of the story of Jacob and Esau. The dense, unusual narrative combines the drama and gravity of Greek theater with the liveliness of African storytelling, making *Genesis* both a gripping retelling of Biblical events and a profound parable for the fratricidal strife that has ravaged so many parts of the world. Starring the great African stage actor Sotigui Kouyate as Jacob and the world-famous Malian singer Salif Keita as his brother Esau.

MODERN ISRAEL: AT
PEACE WITH PLURALISM?

Through global outreach and active participation in the Israeli scene, AJC works to strengthen Israel's security, promote its normalization among the nations, and advocate for a democratic and pluralistic Israel with a robust Jewish identity.

The American Jewish Committee's Israel/Middle East Office is deeply involved in developments in both Israeli-American and Israeli-American Jewish relations. Those relationships are currently undergoing profound change as a consequence of several parallel processes: the peace process, internal developments in Israel and in the US, American Jewry's confrontation with problems of Jewish identity and continuity, and the ongoing involvement of both communities with the issue of Jewish pluralism. AJC monitors and studies the internal Israeli issues that reflect upon Israeli-American Jewish relations--such as the "Jewish" nature of Israel, Israel as a democratic society and the status of non-Jewish minorities in the country.



SCREENING SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY
14THFREE FOR
SENIORS
MATINEENORTHWEST
PREMIERE

2:00PM

FREE FOR SENIORS MATINEE

THE PLEASURES OF
URBAN DECAY*Northwest Premiere*
Canada/USA 1999, 18 min, 16mm
Sam Ball, Director

An offbeat film about MacArthur Award recipient Ben Katchor, the creator of the great comic strip *Julius Knipl, Real Estate Photographer*. Katchor's Yiddish-inflected voice guides us through a vast and shadowy landscape of old skyscrapers, neglected warehouses, and all-night cafeterias, peering behind the city's facades and through its cracks, turning New York's everyday trappings into urban poetry.

MADAME JACQUES SUR
LA CROISSETTE*Northwest Premiere*
France 1995, 37 min, video
French w/ subtitles
Emmanuel Finkiel, Director

Every Spring, a group of elderly, Yiddish-speaking French Jews gathers in Cannes to reminisce. Breaking away from the group and its monotonous rhythm, widower Maurice pursues Madame Jacques. Overcoming their differences and the gossip of their friends, Maurice and Madame Jacques come together. This is the first film from Emmanuel Finkiel, director of Monday night's film, *Voyages*.

MAH-JONGG:
THE TILES THAT BIND*Seattle Premiere*
USA 1998, 31 min, video
Bari Pearlman, Phyllis Heller, Directors

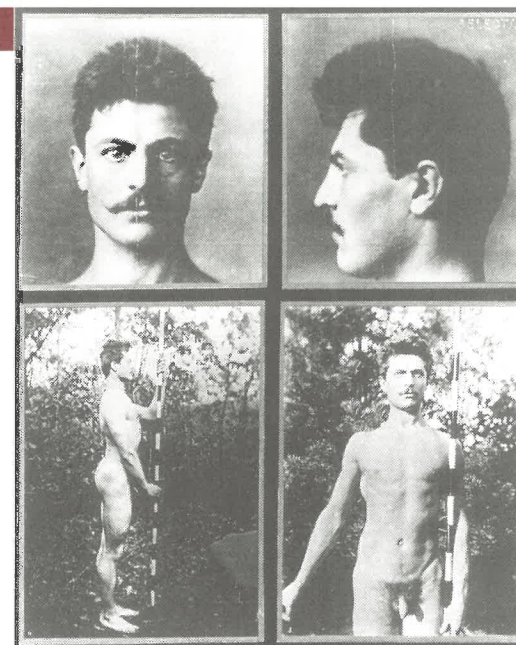
With mah-jongg, two seemingly unrelated cultures in America—Chinese and Jewish—converge. Mah-jongg has been played in Asia since the time of Confucius. In the early 1920s an English language version was imported to the United States and quickly picked up by urban Jewish women, who learned it from friends and relatives in immigrant neighborhoods. For the women who play, the game provides a constant source of amusement as well as a unique support network for life, love and loss.

7:00PM

HOMO SAPIENS 1900

Northwest Premiere
Sweden 1999, 85 min, 35mm
Peter Cohen, Director

A deliberately paced, devastatingly effective telling of the rise and fall of the Eugenics movement, the "science" of improving the human race by selective breeding. Eugenics found enthusiastic support in the US, where by 1907 over 20 states had enacted compulsory sterilization laws; in Sweden, which integrated the ideology into the social policies of a welfare state; in communist Russia, where eugenics theorists were first celebrated and then brutally silenced; and finally in Nazi Germany, which made "racial hygiene" a crucial part of its agenda. With today's rise of genetic technology already resurrecting many of the principles underlying the Eugenics movement, this is a must-see film.

POST FILM
DISCUSSION
WITH INVITED
GUESTS, TBA

9:30PM

EVGUENI KHALDEI:
PHOTOGRAPHER
UNDER STALIN*Northwest Premiere*
Belgium 1998, 60 min, video
Russian w/ subtitles
Marc-Henri Wajnberg, Director

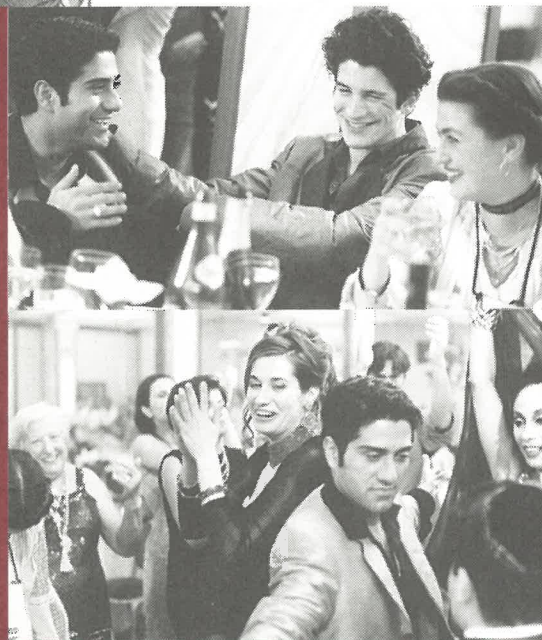
At the age of one, Khaldei was orphaned by a pogrom. At 12, he ground an eyeglass lens into his first camera. He went on to become one of the greatest Russian photographers. From Red Square to the Budapest Ghetto, the fall of the Reichstag to Yalta and the Nuremberg trials, Khaldei chronicled many of the world's most important events with an artist's eye and a journalist's timing. He was handpicked by Stalin, yet was continually the victim of state-approved anti-Semitism. Here for the first time he opens his entire studio, giving us an astounding look into the life of the man who photographed Communism.

THURSDAY
15THNORTHWEST
PREMIEREWEST COAST
PREMIERE

7:00PM

COURS TOUJOURS
(DAD ON THE RUN)*Northwest Premiere*
France 2000, 92 min, 35mm
Dante Desarthe, Director

Set against the backdrop of the Pope's August 1997 visit to Paris, when tens of thousands of Catholic youth were mobilized, this screwball comedy rises to the level of religious allegory. Jonas and Paco are best friends and professional Bar-Mitzvah entertainers. Paco, a volatile young man off-stage, croons in an outrageously romantic style, as if trying to seduce every woman in the audience while Jonas, more



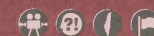
reserved, and in love with one woman, plays keyboards. After the birth of his first child, Jonas' stable world plunges into chaos. Because their family is of mixed Sephardic and Ashkenazi heritage, he and Julie are unsure of which ritual to observe for their son's circumcision. Finally, they

decide to follow a North African custom and, three days after the bris, Jonas must bury the foreskin. With time running out, Jonas finds it hard to slip away from his gig, and even harder to bury anything in Paris!



9:00PM

LAST RESORT

West Coast Premiere
Israel 1999, 93 min, 35mm
Hebrew w/ subtitles
Aner Preminger, Director

A psychologically gripping feature from renowned Israeli director Aner Preminger. The year is 1993. As the Oslo agreement is being signed in Washington, Noam Wax gathers six former members of the Nahal Settlement—the Israeli Army's communal living experiment—on Mount Hazon in the lower Galilee. His purpose is to complete a documentary film about the settlement that will help him overcome the trauma and scars left over from those days. Their night together turns into a moral stocktaking that reflects the road Israel traveled in the decade between the Lebanon war and the Oslo agreement.

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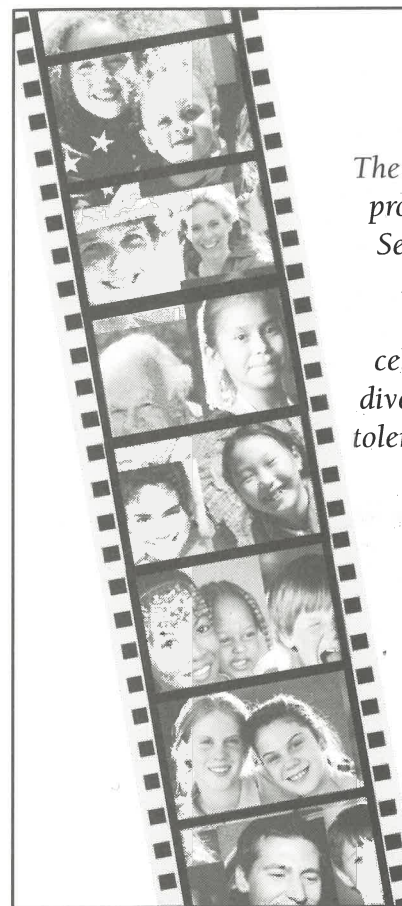
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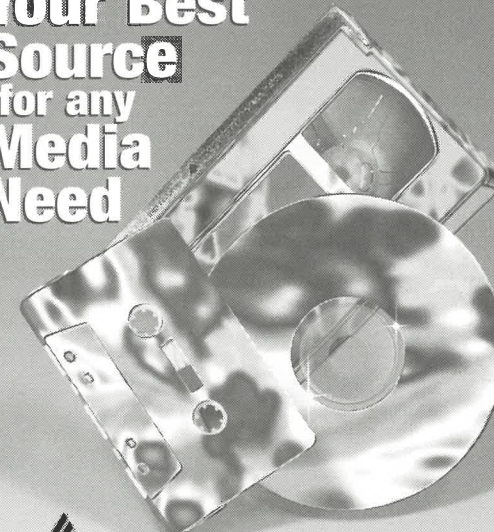
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SCREENING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY
17TH

U.S. PREMIERE

NORTHWEST
PREMIERE

7:00PM

THE OPTIMISTS

US Premiere
USA 2001, 84 min, 16mm
Jacky Comforty, Director



The largely unknown story of how Bulgarian Christians and Muslims helped save 50,000 Bulgarian Jews during the Holocaust despite their government's collaboration with the Nazis. Filmed in Israel and Europe, the footage includes oral histories from witnesses and survivors; unique archival film footage from newly-opened Bulgarian archives; and rare photos of Bulgarian Jewish life before and during WWII. A fascinating story of the best and worst sides of human nature, narrated by director Jacky Comforty, whose family was among those saved.



SPECIAL GUESTS:

MUSIC BY BALKAN TIME ZONE;
MARY SHERHART, VOCALIST
SANDRA DEAN, VIOLIN
DAVID BILGLES, KAVAL
DAVID BARTLEY, TAMBOURA

POST FILM DISCUSSION

WITH SPECIAL GUEST:
FILMMAKER JACKY COMFORTY



9:00PM

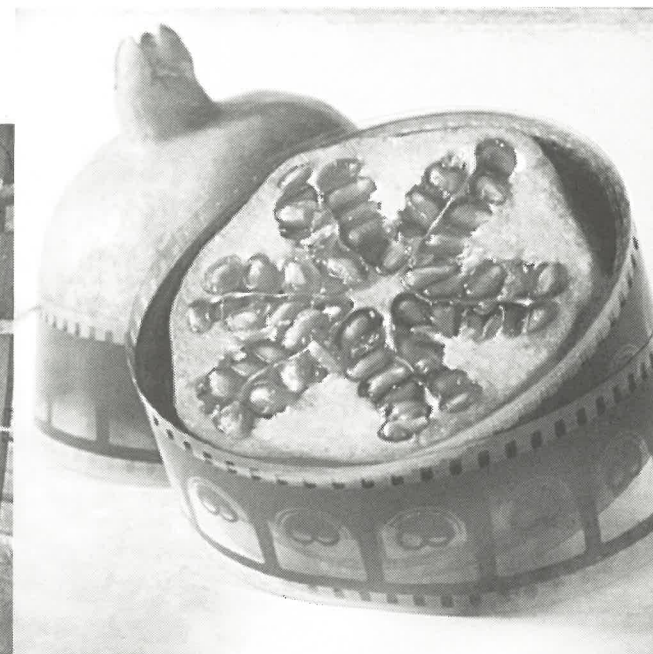
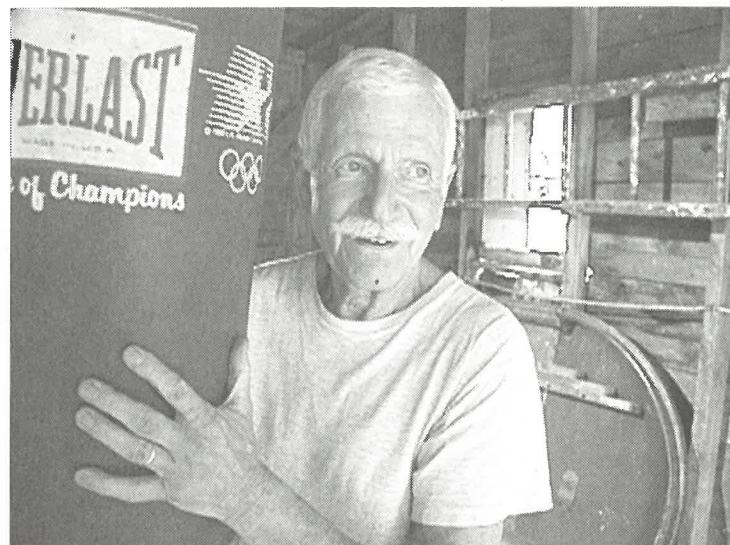
FIGHTER

Northwest Premiere
USA 2000, 90 min, 35mm
English and Czech w/ subtitles
Amir Bar-Lev, Director



Two Czech-born survivors of World War II, Arnost Lustig and Jan Wiener, are inspired by their

post-war friendship to return to Europe, retracing their lives during and after the war. An unforgettable road trip, *Fighter* delivers a complex and fascinating portrait of the cathartic and destructive powers of memory, and of an unlikely friendship brought to the brink of collapse.

SUNDAY
18THWEST COAST
PREMIEREBAGEL AND
FILM BRUNCH

10:00AM BAGEL AND FILM BRUNCH

SEDER TREK

West Coast Premiere
Israel/Nepal 1999, 56 min, video
English/Hebrew w/ subtitles
Shachar Zefania, Director



Set primarily in Nepal, *Seder Trek* bobs back and forth between two stories. One concerns director Zefania's trek to Gokio Peak, in the Mount Everest region of the Himalayas; the other focuses on the inspiration and preparations behind "the largest seder in the world," in Katmandu. A sweet story of communion and adventure, and a cinematic plea for the end of hostility between religious and secular Jews in Israel.

JEWS AND BUDDHISM:
BELIEF AMENDED,
FAITH REVEALED

Seattle Premiere
USA 1999, 41 min, video
Bill Chayes, Isaac Solotaroff, Directors

This illuminating and uplifting film examines the similarities and differences of Judaism and Buddhism and the surging interest in Buddhism by American Jews. Narrated by Sharon Stone, the film includes footage of a fascinating meeting between the Dalai Lama and various Jewish

scholars, and a dialogue between the Burmese Prime Minister and the first Prime Minister of Israel, David Ben Gurion.

POST FILM DISCUSSION
WITH SPECIAL GUEST:
FILMMAKER BILL CHAYES



12:30 PM

LIEBA PERLA

West Coast Premiere
Israel 2000, 55 min, video
Sachar Rosen, Director



During the Nazi regime, Dr. Josef Mengele conducted "scientific" experiments on and shot "research" footage of a Hungarian Jewish family of dwarfs. Fifty years later, Hannelore Witkowski, a "short-statured" woman born in post-war Germany, befriends the only surviving family member, Perla,

an actress, now living in Israel. Perla asks Hannelore to search Germany for a lost film in which Mengele displays her entire family naked. Hannelore reports back to Perla on her search, calling and writing from Auschwitz, the Max Planck Institute, and the home of one of Mengele's photographers. An astounding, intimate, loving story of past horror and present-day renewal.

THE JAZZMAN FROM
THE GULAG

Northwest Premiere
France/Netherlands 1999
58 min, video
English/Russian w/ subtitles
Pierre-Henry Salfati, Director



As a jazz trumpeter, Eddie Rosner was world-class, earning comparison even to Louis Armstrong. As a Polish Jew born in Berlin, however, Rosner was continually on the wrong side of history. A member of the Weintraub Syncopators, he fled the Nazis only to run afoul of Stalinism,

and later spent years in Siberia as a suspected American spy—surviving only because of his awesome talent. French director Pierre-Henry Salfati and Russian writer Natalya Sazonova movingly chronicle an extraordinary man who over and over again lost virtually everything—except for his deep love of jazz.

SPECIAL GUEST:
MUSIC BY TRUMPETER JIM KNODLE
AND BASSIST JON SAMPSON



SCREENING SCHEDULE

SUNDAY
18THFILM AND
MEMORY
PROGRAMFILM AND MEMORY
PROGRAM

These remarkable films explore the tension between telling a story and recording one. The need to know, the desire to tell, and the search for truth all have their own demands, and each responds differently to film's ability to "capture" reality. This afternoon we will explore the ways that film, memory, and history speak to each other, and to each of us.

POST FILM MODERATED DISCUSSION WITH SPECIAL GUESTS:
FILMMAKERS JOAN STEIN, PETER FORGÁCS AND JACKY COMFORTY;
MIRIAM GREENBAUM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WASHINGTON
STATE HOLOCAUST EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER, REGINA
HACKETT, SENIOR ART CRITIC, SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER, AND
JOANNE WEINER RUDOF, DIRECTOR, FORTUNOFF VIDEO ARCHIVES
FOR HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES, YALE UNIVERSITY, IN A CONVERSA-
TION ON "FILM AND MEMORY."

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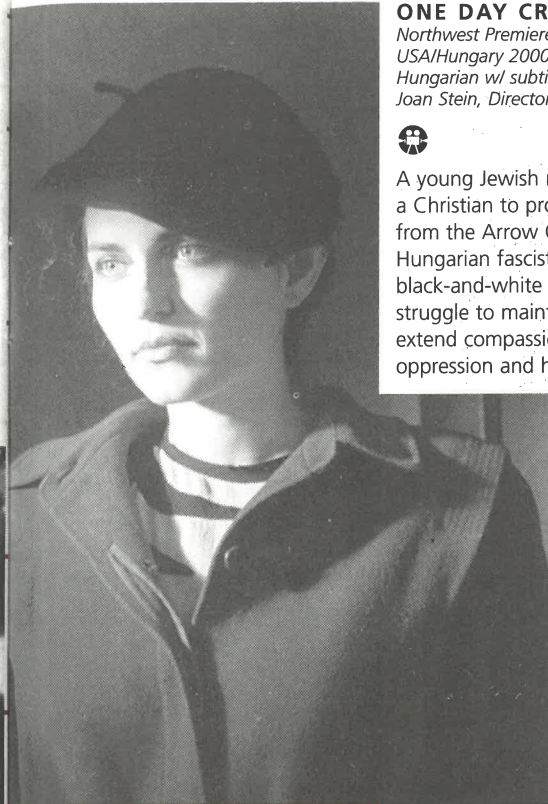
3:00PM

THE MARCH

Northwest Premiere
USA/Hungary 2000, 25 min, 16mm
Abraham Ravett, Director



Utilizing a series of conversations conducted over a 13-year period, influential experimental filmmaker Abraham Ravett details his mother's recollections of the 1945 Death March, when the SS hastily liquidated Auschwitz as Soviet troops drew near.



ONE DAY CROSSING

Northwest Premiere
USA/Hungary 2000, 25 min, 16mm
Hungarian w/ subtitles.
Joan Stein, Director



A young Jewish mother poses as a Christian to protect her son from the Arrow Cross, the Hungarian fascists. An intense black-and-white short about the struggle to maintain identity and extend compassion in times of oppression and horror.

MAELSTROM:
A FAMILY CHRONICLE

West Coast Premiere
Netherlands 1998, 60 min, video
Peter Forgács, Director



A pioneer in the use of "found footage," the brilliant Hungarian director Peter Forgacs chronicles the lives of the Dutch Jewish Peereboom family during the period 1933 to 1942, using the family's own home movies, along with segments filmed by the family of the Nazi governor of Holland. The irony created by the juxtaposition of the two families, and our knowledge of subsequent events, turn these innocent images of the Peereboom family—at the beach, getting married, having children, growing

up—into something particularly bitter-sweet. Our feeling of helplessness grows into a suppressed scream as the final images appear on screen: this nice Jewish family is preparing clothes for the journey to the "labor camps" in Germany.



7:30PM CLOSING NIGHT FILM

LES FANTÔMES
DE LOUBA

West Coast Premiere
France 2000, 104 min, 35mm
French w/ subtitles.
Martine Dugowson, Director



Director Martine Dugowson (*Mina Tannenbaum*, SJFF '96) returns with a complex drama about a young Jewish woman whose every relationship is haunted by the past. Embroiled in a dangerous game of mistaken identity and deceit, Louba (portrayed by Elsa Zylberstein in a stunning performance) struggles to make a meaningful connection in what she sees as a world of betrayal. Both an edge-of-your-seat thriller and a profound meditation on the relationship of the individual to society, *Les Fantômes* is a triumph.

THE FUTURE OF
MEMORY: VITAL HISTORY,
VIBRANT VISIONS.

"Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." At the beginning of the new century, the world continues to come to terms with last century's greatest tragedy, the Holocaust. The American Jewish Committee continues to work against Holocaust deniers 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. AJC also works to ensure that the memory of the 6 million Jews who perished will remain alive.

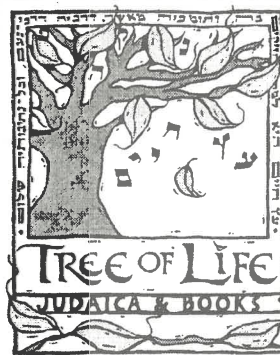
Through efforts in America and our Berlin Office, AJC was instrumental in the German government's decision to set up a fund to compensate Holocaust survivors living in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Most recently, AJC's widely publicized list of hundreds of German companies that used slave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

SUNDAY
18THCLOSING
NIGHT

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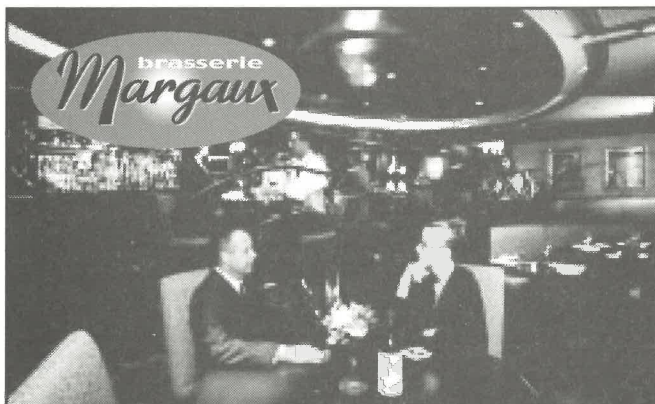
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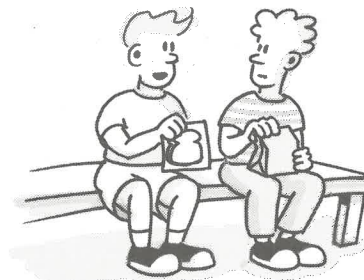
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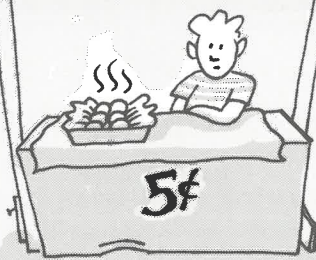
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SEE PAGE 12
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FILMTALKS

With the theme, "Awareness To Action," FILMTalks! inspires students to develop their own voice in addressing prejudice. Each student is asked to make a personal commitment to improve diversity relations in his or her school. Incredible sentiments are found in their statements.

"After today, I want to not label people"

"Love is not a solution to everything, respect is"

"I will continue to listen, and consciously practice acceptance"

"I will speak up against racism and not let others discriminate against those who are different"

"Take time and Listen"

"I will get involved with my community and school to help prevent violence"

"Try to not label people and actually get to know people for who they are, not what they appear to be"

"Teach by Example"

"I am going to introduce my black friends to my friends of other races"

"Ask questions before making a judgment on someone"

"Always stand up for people that are being made fun of"

"I will simply think about being in someone else's shoes"

"I want to make sure I am fully educated about others"


"React to discriminatory humor, don't be silent. Recognize, tell the perpetrators that's offensive"

"I will be honest more"

See p.9 for program details

Kosherific!

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INFO

SCREENINGS

All screenings begin promptly at the announced time. All programs subject to change. Information about changes will be announced on our info-line: 206.390.7791. Films are not rated and may contain graphic language or adult situations. Please see our key on pg. 11 for flagged films.

INDIVIDUAL TICKET PRICES

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

SPECIAL EVENT PRICES

Sorry, no discounts available
\$18.00 6th 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.
Full Festival Pass \$100.00 – Admission to all events and screenings
AJC Pass \$80.00 – Full pass at a discount for AJC members.
Half Pass \$60.00 – Opening Night Gala, Bagel & Film Brunch plus five screenings.

SEATING

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

GROUP SALES

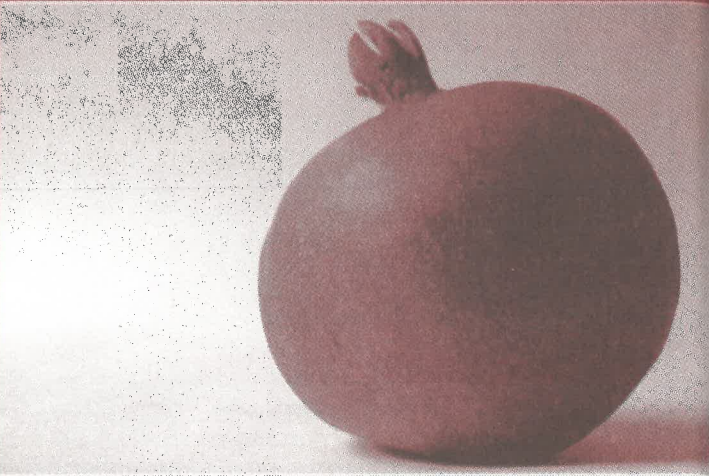
Group discount by pre-arrangement only: \$6.00 per person. For groups of 12 or more, please contact the SJFF Box Office at 206.390.7791

SJFF VOLUNTEERS

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

VALUE IN MEMBERSHIP

AJC members enjoy much more than discounts on SJFF individual tickets and passes. AJC membership entitles you to a free subscription to AJC Journal, reduced rates for Commentary magazine, and the opportunity to participate in local and national AJC events and programs, including AJC's exceptional Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. It also provides you with easy access to our vast collection of publications, research, provocative analysis, up-to-the-minute background reports, and so much more. We invite and encourage you to join AJC!



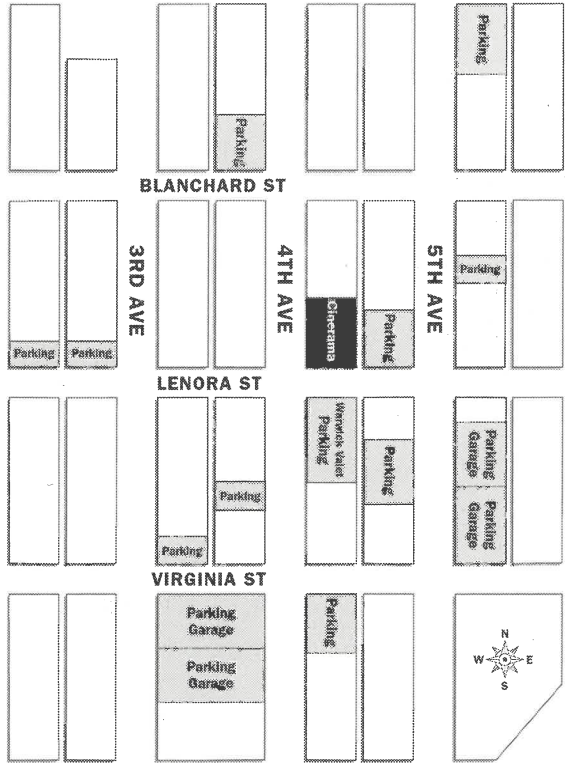
THEATRE LOCATION

2100 4th Avenue
N.E. corner of 4th and Lenora

THEATRE PARKING INFORMATION

This map provides the locations of parking options within walking distance of the Cinerama Theatre. There is also plenty of free street parking in the area after 6:00. SJFF and Cinerama are unable to provide parking validation for surrounding lots.

Call Metro at 206.287.0463 for busline information.



TICKET ORDER FORM

FILM	DATE	TIME	PRICE	SUBTOTAL
OPENING NIGHT GALA w/ All My Loved Ones	3/10	7:30	\$18.00	
Arguing the World	3/11	12:00	\$7.50	
Dreams and Nightmares	3/11	2:00	\$7.50	
The Jews in the Land of Palestine	3/11	4:00	\$7.50	
Sunshine	3/11	7:30	\$7.50	
Voyages	3/12	7:00	\$7.50	
JEWISH SHORTS: THE SERIES				
Village of Idiots, Babcha, Obsessed with Jews, Pleasures of Urban Decay, Trailers	3/12	9:00	\$7.50	
Distinguishing Features: The Engagement Party*	3/13	7:30	\$7.50	
Sister/Wife	3/13	7:00	\$7.50	
Genesis	3/13	9:00	\$7.50	
FREE FOR SENIORS MATINEE				
Pleasures of Urban Decay, Madame Jacques sur la Croisette, Mah Jongg: The Tiles that Bind	3/14	2:00	SENIORS FREE \$7.50	
Homosapiens 1900	3/14	7:00	\$7.50	
Evgueni Kaldei: Photographer under Stalin	3/14	9:30	\$7.50	
Cours Toujours (Dad on the Run)	3/15	7:00	\$7.50	
Last Resort	3/15	9:00	\$7.50	
The Optimists	3/17	7:00	\$7.50	
Fighter	3/17	9:00	\$7.50	
BAGEL AND FILM BRUNCH				
Jews and Buddhism w/ Seder Trek	3/18	10:00	Adult \$12.00 Child \$6.00	
Jazzman from the Gulag w/ Lieba Perla	3/18	12:30	\$7.50	
The March w/ One Day Crossing w/ Maelstrom	3/18	3:00	\$7.50	
Les Phantômes de Louba	3/18	7:30	\$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 the screenings, all the events, and attend the VIP dinner at Il Fornaio on March 11th, sign up for sponsorship now or call AJC for more information. 206.622.6315			\$350.00	
			\$500.00	
			\$1000.00	
AJC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP			\$100.00	
			TOTAL	

*All films are screened at The Cinerama Theatre (2100 4th Ave), except The Engagement Party on March 13th, 7:30 PM at The Seattle Art Museum (100 University).

SJFF 2001 BOX OFFICE

Ordering is easy, but hurry, seating is limited. Advance purchase is recommended.

ADVANCED TICKET SALES

Advance tickets are non-refundable. Tickets ordered by mail, phone, or fax will be held at Cinerama box office for your convenience.

BY MAIL

Complete form and mail by March 4th to: AJC/SJFF 1402 Third Ave., Suite 1415 Seattle, WA 98101

BY FAX

Fax to 206.622.3015

BY PHONE

February 26th through March 8th. Call Mon-Fri 10am-8pm 206.390.7791

DURING FESTIVAL

The Box Office will be open 1 hour prior to screenings beginning March 10th.

See pg. 7 for screening lengths.

QUESTIONS?

Call SJFF at 206.390.7791 or e-mail info@ajcseattle.org

PAYMENT METHOD

First Name	Last Name	AMOUNT
Address		<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK
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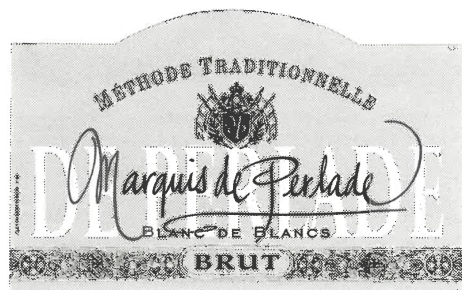
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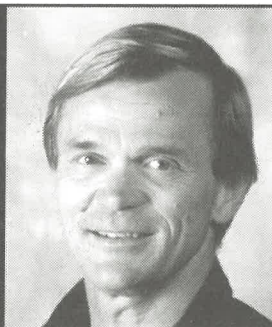
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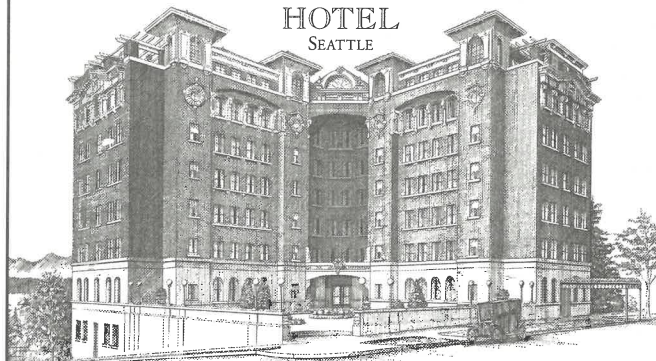


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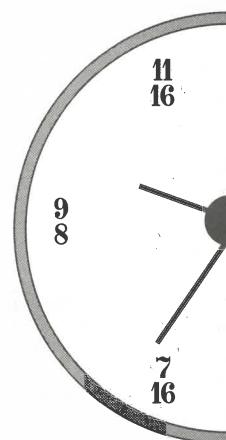


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