

# JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

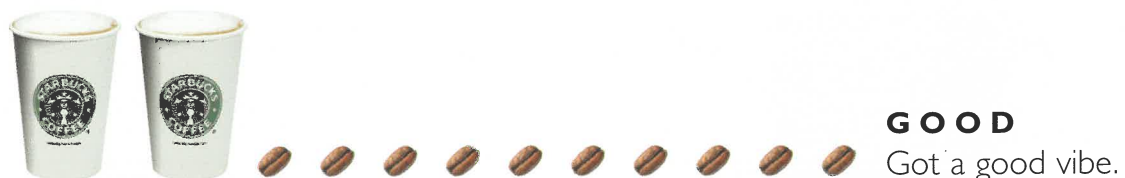
5762 YEARS OF TRADITION  
ONE WEEK OF FILM  
april 20-28 cinerama theatre

THE 7TH ANNUAL SEATTLE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL  
PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE





## SEATTLE'S OFFICIAL RATING SYSTEM



Proud sponsor of the Seattle Jewish Film Festival.



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# WELCOME!

It is said that levels of maturity are achieved in seven-year increments, and the Seattle Jewish Film Festival, presented by the American Jewish Committee (AJC), is right on schedule with its 7th season.

A certain degree of maturity has certainly been achieved simply through lessons learned from the first six years. In other ways, maturity has been thrust upon us as we manage the complexities of the times in which we live. The shiver that September 11th sent through the world was certainly horrible. For Jews, it contained something dreadfully familiar: the ever-present threat of persecution, violence, and extinction. If anything, this awareness increased our commitment to use the art of film to promote understanding, and the format of an arts festival to inspire discussion and reflection.

We faced a financial reality as well, producing an arts event in a recession when, typically, funding for arts and culture dwindles as basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter have more urgency. In this area, the maturity of the SJFF proved a distinct plus as our institutional and individual funders stayed with us, knowing we would steward their support well.

There was never any doubt that the audience would be there for another SJFF. A recent demographic study sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle showed that 75% of all respondents go to or rent a Jewish movie regardless of any other affiliation or participation in the Jewish community. We viewed this as great news.

This year's SJFF has three themes: The Bonds That Tie, Homeland Insecurity, and The Future of Memory. They are each informed by AJC responses to issues facing the Jewish community. We invite you to explore these with us this week, read about them in this guide, and use the films to expand your understanding of these issues. —see page 12

The SJFF is created with the explicit intention of engaging an audience with films that have a unique connection to a Jewish film festival. They may be made by Jewish filmmakers, contain Jewish themes, or reflect opinions by and about Jews. We also strive to take advantage of our superb Seattle arts community and geography with films by local filmmakers and placed in local venues.

The Seattle Jewish Film Festival is produced by an amazing ensemble led by SJFF Director Molly Sedlik, her dedicated and able staff, and Gregg Lachow, returning this year as Curator. They bring nothing short of inspiration. Committee members, the AJC Board and Executive Director, our generous returning major sponsors - Starbucks, Vulcan Enterprises, and Il Fornaio - along with individual supporters and our audience combine to create what has become an unforgettable Seattle institution.

We raise a cheer to the 7th Annual Seattle Jewish Film Festival!

*Derrick Julian Holly Miriam*

SJFF Co-Chairs  
Derrick Chasan

Julian Judelman

Holly M. Redell

Miriam Sevy

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Molly Sedlik  
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Gregg Lachow  
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FILMTalks! Coordinator

Leslie Kuris  
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Program Coordinator

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Julian Judelman  
Holly Redell  
Miriam Sevy

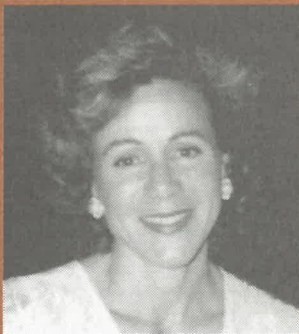
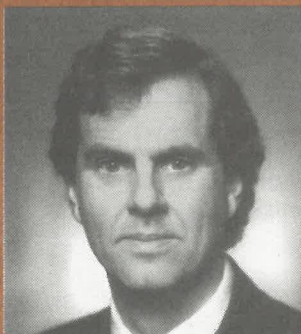
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Greetings,

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, ethnic groups, and religions together to address openly the most pressing challenges of our day.

Now more than ever, communities across the nation are coming together, as a way to heal from the recent tragedies that shook our nation and the world. As the executive director of the American Jewish Committee, I applaud the efforts of our Greater Seattle Chapter in creating the opportunity for community-building at the Seattle Jewish Film Festival.

It gives me great satisfaction to witness the festival's growth and its continued dedication to exploring Jewish culture through 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 seventh 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.

Enjoy the Festival!

Sincerely,

David A. Harris  
National Executive Director  
American Jewish Committee



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Seventh Annual Seattle Jewish Film Festival, the signature program of the AJC's Seattle Chapter. Seven years ago the Board of Directors of the AJC 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 now been realized.

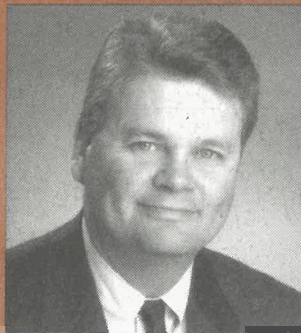
All SJFF programming, and especially FILMTalks!, which will bring together over 450 Seattle public high school students for an all-day prejudice reduction workshop during the festival, is designed to further insight and interaction among diverse segments of our community. This year the AJC is proud to have expanded our FILMTalks! concept by developing FILMTalks! into a program taking place at two Seattle public high schools throughout the year, and by creating Community FILMTalks!, an evening of film and discussion open to the community which will take place during the festival.

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. Each year, the AJC presents local programs dealing with a range of important and timely topics. Since the events of September 11th, our Seattle Chapter has brought in experts to discuss a broad range of relevant topics, including terrorism, the current Middle East crisis, and Jewish-Muslim relations. In November, the Seattle chapter recognized Bank of America's Northwest Region president John Rindlaub and Bank of America with its National Human Relations Award. In June, twenty high school students will receive the Max Block Award for Human Relations, continuing a tradition of over four decades of promoting the recognition of youth and 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, Leslie Kuris, Lauren Sweeney, Shmuel Rubinstein, Rabbi Rick Harkavy, and Sarah Paine. Also, thank you to our dedicated co-chairs, Miriam Sevy, Holly Redell, Julian Judelman and Derrick Chasen. Last, I want to thank you, our audience, volunteers and supporters for your enthusiasm and participation over the past seven years. Enjoy!

Warmly,

Deborah Rosen  
President, Seattle Chapter



Shalom,

Seven is an important number in Jewish mysticism and it is now the seventh year of the Seattle Jewish Film Festival, which has proved itself to be an important cultural and community event.

In our efforts to build bridges between countries, people, and communities especially as our two countries meet important challenges; redefining the meaning of freedoms and values, combating the menace of terrorism, it is important not to forget that life goes on. The film festival brings the best of our rich cultural life, movies from different places, depicting the beauty of our life as Jews and human beings.

I commend the organizers and the Seattle Chapter of the American Jewish Committee for their continued involvement and commitment to serve the community and build Israeli-Jewish bridges.

I am certain that the festival is an enriching experience for the community and beyond.

All the best,

Yossi Amrani  
Counsel General of Israel  
Pacific Northwest Region



**WHEREAS,**  
the City of Seattle is fortunate to be home to a vibrant and diverse Jewish community as well as a rich and broad tradition of Film Festivals; and

**WHEREAS,**  
each year the American Jewish Committee, adopts the magic of film to create The Seattle Jewish Film Festival, a spectacular eight-day celebration of Jewish experiences from around the world; and

**WHEREAS,**  
this weeklong festival is a vivid cinematic celebration of Jewish life and culture, bringing together members of the Jewish community, film-lovers and the community at large for this Seattle tradition; and

**WHEREAS,**  
planned with intent and purpose, the festival is infused with programming, education, and events that enrich the community and reflect the AJC's human rights agenda; and

**WHEREAS,**  
the State of Washington has set aside the week of April 20-28, 2002, to celebrate Seattle Jewish Film Festival week, the city's largest annual Jewish community event;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREGORY J. NICKELS, Mayor of the City of Seattle, do hereby proclaim April 20-28, 2002 to be

**SEATTLE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL WEEK**

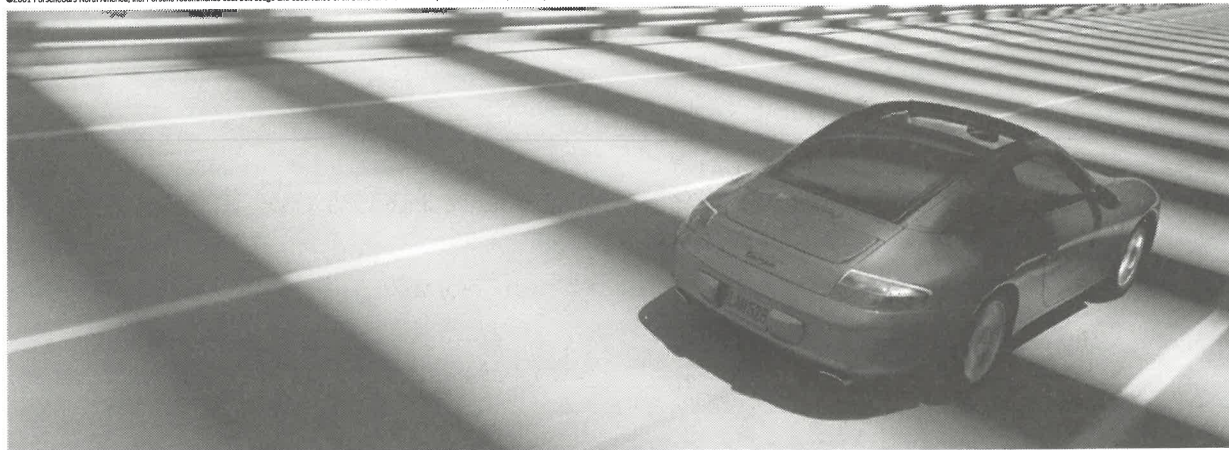
in Seattle, and I encourage all citizens to join me in recognizing this extraordinary cultural event.

Greg Nickels  
Mayor





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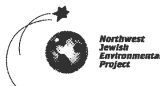
FILMTalks!



Trailer



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**The American Jewish  
Committee**

*Advancing Religious, Ethnic and Racial Understanding Worldwide*

*Over the years Washington's rejection of religious bigotry has matured from a foundation of our domestic politics into a guiding doctrine of our foreign policy. The AJC deserves special credit for this progress .... Formed to resist anti-Semitic persecution in Czarist Russia, the AJC has emerged as a great champion of religious liberty worldwide.*

**-President George W. Bush**

*AJC strengthens America by countering prejudice and encouraging a vision of cooperation and understanding.*

**-Senator Maria Cantwell**

*I am deeply impressed by AJC's wonderful work building bridges of understanding between diverse religious and ethnic groups.*

**-Steven Spielberg**

**Visit us in the lobby of the Cinerama during the festival  
for more information**

**or**

**Visit us on the web at [www.ajc.org](http://www.ajc.org)**





## ART...AWARENESS...ACTION what will you do?

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. Extraordinary sentiments are found in their statements.

### COMMITMENT CARD

WHAT WILL YOU DO TO HELP IMPROVE  
DIVERSITY RELATIONS AT YOUR SCHOOL IN  
THE COMING YEAR?

If someone makes  
an anti-gay slur around me  
I will tell them just  
how I feel. and totally  
call them on it.

### COMMITMENT CARD

WHAT WILL YOU DO TO HELP IMPROVE  
DIVERSITY RELATIONS AT YOUR SCHOOL IN  
THE COMING YEAR?

I will respect  
everyone.  
Focus on the way  
I treat others.

### COMMITMENT CARD

WHAT WILL YOU DO TO HELP IMPROVE  
DIVERSITY RELATIONS AT YOUR SCHOOL IN  
THE COMING YEAR?

I will step outside  
my boundaries to talk  
and become friends w/  
people I am different  
from.

### COMMITMENT CARD

WHAT WILL YOU DO TO HELP IMPROVE  
DIVERSITY RELATIONS AT YOUR SCHOOL IN  
THE COMING YEAR?

to tell students about  
what I have learned about  
other people here at film  
talks. when people put  
down other races I will  
stop them. Film talks has  
opened my eyes alot more.

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

### THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF FILMTALKS!

Supported in part by The Jewish Community Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, Majestic Bay Theatres, and the American Jewish Committee's Arthur & Rochelle Belfer Center for American Pluralism.

### FILMTALKS! FORUM

Celebrating its Fifth Anniversary this year, *FILMTalks!* has become the American Jewish Committee's cornerstone educational program for Seattle area youth. Using the popular and engaging art of film to launch students into dialogue on issues of respecting diversity and confronting prejudice, more than 2,200 students, from 23 different public, private, and parochial high schools, have attended this free daylong workshop at the annual Seattle Jewish Film Festival.

### FILMTALKS! ON CAMPUS

This year John Marshall High School and Ingraham High School participated in an expanded program called *FILMTalks! on Campus*, based upon the American Jewish Committee's acclaimed national education program, *Hands Across the Campus*. This innovative program intensifies the dialogue and provides activities designed to improve intergroup relations in these schools. In the '02-'03 school year the AJC will be partnering with five to ten area high schools in the year-round programming of *FILMTalks! on Campus*.

### COMMUNITY FILMTALKS!

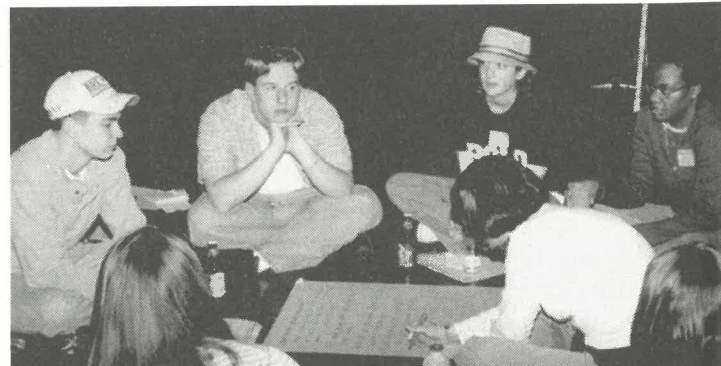
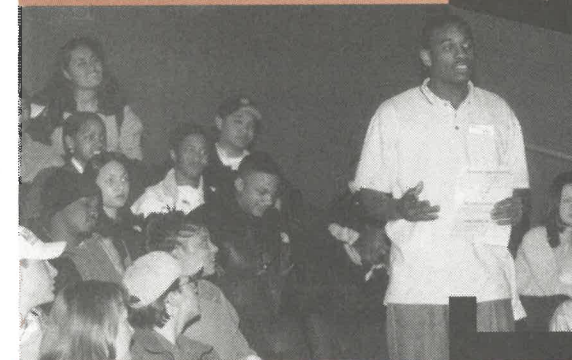
Also new this year is *Community FILMTalks!*, building on the successful model of the *FILMTalks!* Forum. On Tuesday, April 23rd, SJFF invites you and all members of our diverse community to watch the critically acclaimed film *Divided We Fall* and participate in a facilitated town-hall discussion led by Bill Grace, Director of the Center for Ethical Leadership. (See page 18 for details)

FILMTalks! Sponsors:



### PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

Auburn Riverside High School  
Ballard High School  
Eastside Catholic High School  
Foss High School  
Garfield High School  
Ingraham High School  
John F. Kennedy High School  
John Marshall High School  
Mount Tahoma High School  
Nathan Hale High School  
Northwest Yeshiva High School  
Rainier Beach High School  
Roosevelt High School  
Seattle Preparatory Academy  
South Lake High School  
Summit High School



ART...AWARENESS...ACTION





BINDS THAT TIE

The struggle between tradition and progress is an eternal one; each of us works for, and at times against, the vital bonds of love, faith, and community. Often, as the protagonists of these films discover, the greater the struggle, the tighter the binds.

Within an increasingly blended society, The American Jewish Committee (AJC) is dedicated to ensuring Jewish continuity and creating Jewish renewal. AJC has undertaken several innovative and ambitious initiatives to build stronger ties among Jewish denominations in America, to strengthen relations and understanding between American Jewry and Israeli Jews, and to advocate for Jewish communal policies that ensure Jewish continuity in the future.



HOMELAND INSECURITY

How successfully do we, as individuals or as nations, increase our own security if in the attempt to do so we threaten the security of others? This year, films from the US, Israel, and Argentina help us explore a subject that has taken on new dimensions since September 11th.

AJC has consistently produced probing and sophisticated analyses of threats facing the United States, Israel, and the Western world, and has been a leading international voice in advocating for the implementation of major policy initiatives to combat terrorism worldwide.



THE FUTURE OF MEMORY

"The more past there is the less I know of it." Yet Jews are obligated to remember. The crucial decisions of what stories to tell, and how to tell them, are often made within the medium of film, and the forum of a film festival.

AJC addresses the future of memory in two key ways. Research: A significant part of AJC's educational and advocacy work on Holocaust-related issues is devoted to producing research reports aimed at deepening understanding of the Holocaust, and furthering efforts to ensure that with the passage of time, memory and remembrance will endure. Education: AJC's Central and East European Curriculum Review Project focuses on countries that have recently emerged from Communist rule. What do the children of Central and East Europe learn in the classroom about Judaism, Jewish history, the Holocaust, and Israel? By making clear what exists in the educational sphere at present, the Curriculum Review Project seeks to spur curriculum reform where appropriate.



FLAG

CONTAINS ADULT CONTENT

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE WORK OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER. SEE THE AJC TABLE IN THE LOBBY FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP. WWW.AJC.ORG

DATE	TIME	FILM	COUNTRY	LEGEND	LENGTH
SATURDAY April 20th	8:30	OPENING NIGHT DESSERT GALA DESPERADO SQUARE	Israel	⬆	1h 40m
SUNDAY April 21st	12:00	A BOMB IN THE BASEMENT	Israel	⬆	1h 30m
	2:00	ISRAEL AND THE MEDIA PRIMETIME WAR STREET UNDER FIRE	Israel Israel	⬆	30m 34m
	4:30	IN SEARCH OF PEACE	U.S.	⬆	1h 50m
	7:30	THE SEPHARDIC JEWS OF THE PIKE PLACE MARKET GRIPSHOLM	U.S.  Germany/Switzerland	⬆  ⬆ ⬆	25m  1hr 42m
MONDAY April 22nd	7:00	JEWISH LIFE IN VILNA THE VOW	Poland Poland	⬆ ⬆ ⬆	10m 1hr 22m
	9:30	CLEAN SWEEP	Israel	⬆	1hr 33m
TUESDAY April 23rd	7:00	COMMUNITY FILMTALKS! DIVIDED WE FALL	Czech Republic	⬆	1h 40m
WEDNESDAY April 24th	2:00	FREE FOR SENIORS MATINEE KOMEDIANT	Israel	⬆	1h 21m
	5:00	PROMISES	U.S./Israel/P.A.	⬆	1h 48m
	7:00	LIVING FOR TOMORROW: Untold Stories by the Pioneering Women of Israel COMPANY JASMINE	U.S.  Israel	⬆ ⬆  ⬆	53m  56m
	9:00	THE LAST JEWISH TOWN ADIO KERIDA KOSHER FRIENDLY	Israel/Azerbaijan Bosnia Poland	⬆ ⬆ ⬆	38m 50m 30m
THURSDAY April 25th	7:00	TIME OF FAVOR	Israel	⬆ ⬆	1h 38m
	9:00	DIE PRÄSIDENTEN	Germany	⬆	1h 35m
FRIDAY April 26th	1:00	FAREWELL SHE CAME TO PICK ME UP JUDITH A DREAM OF MOTHER	Russia France Israel Israel	⬆ ⬆ ⬆ ⬆	27m 20m 50m 27m
SATURDAY April 27th	8:30	NAJEEB: A Persian Girl in America LATE MARRIAGE	U.S. Israel	⬆ ⬆ ⬆	25m 1h 40m
SUNDAY April 28th	10:00	BAGEL & FILM BRUNCH THE SWEETEST SOUND WE GOT US WHITE FACE OBSESSED WITH JEWS	U.S. U.S. U.S. U.S.	⬆ ⬆ ⬆ ⬆	1h 20m 24m 14m 8m
	1:00	ARGENTINIAN CRISIS UNHEARD VOICES THE SEVENTH DAY TO LIVE WITH TERROR	U.S. Argentina Argentina/U.S.	⬆ ⬆ ⬆	11m 15m 1h
	3:30	THE GREENING OF JUDAISM BLUE VINYL	U.S.	⬆	1h 41m
	6:30	CLOSING NIGHT SING-ALONG FIDDLER ON THE ROOF	U.S.	⬆	2h 58m



FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



DESPERADO SQUARE

OPENING NIGHT  
DESPERADO SQUARE

Saturday April 20 8:30 PM

Our Opening Night feature, *Desperado Square*, is a new kind of Israeli film: a warm, funny romance that looks to both Western and Eastern films for inspiration, but ends up finding it in a small Sephardic quarter of Tel Aviv. An evening to celebrate the goodness of life! Live music by the terrific Shalom Ensemble, and a post-film reception lovingly catered by Christine Keff of Fandango and Flying Fish.



IN SEARCH OF PEACE

ISRAEL AND THE MEDIA

Sunday April 21 2:00 PM

Israel, home to a greater degree of press freedom than any other nation in the Middle East, consistently seems to lose the propaganda wars. Two first-hand accounts of violence within Israel, *Primetime War* and *Street of Fire*, provide a jumping-off point for a discussion of Israel and the Media. Panelists include directors Michael Karpin (*A Bomb in the Basement*) and Richard Trank (*In Search of Peace*), and Moti Krauthamer, Israeli journalist and local educator.



DIVIDED WE FALL

COMMUNITY FILMTALKS!

Tuesday April 23 7:00 PM

Art, at its best, says: "let's talk." And tonight we'll do just that. Modeled on our day-long *FilmTalks!* program for high schoolers throughout King County, the evening will unfold in three parts. First, the sharp, funny, moving Czech film *Divided We Fall*. Second, a community forum, attended and co-presented by dozens of local organizations and moderated by Bill Grace, Executive Director of the Center for Ethical Leadership. Third, an inner dialogue: "What can I do *now* to better see, celebrate, and integrate with the rich diversity that is all around me?"



BAGEL AND FILM BRUNCH

Sunday April 28 10:00 AM

The perfect Sunday morning: a yummy bagel brunch followed by four hilarious and insightful documentaries about the never-ending search for connection. Film subject Neil Keller obsessively finds and collects famous and infamous Jews in *Obsessed with Jews*, while filmmaker Alan Berliner just as obsessively seeks out (and secretly wishes to eliminate) all the other Alan Berliners of the world in *The Sweetest Sound*. Local filmmaker Brian McDonald's *White Face* movingly charts the effort of clowns to be accepted as *one of us*, and Joan Brooker's charming new film *We Got Us* introduces us to four women in NY who find everything they need in each other...and a game of mah-jongg.



WE GOT US

THE GREENING OF JUDAISM

Sunday April 28 3:30 PM

Environmentalism, the question of our relation to the land, has been a Jewish concern at least since the Exodus. Join filmmakers Judith Helfand and Daniel B. Gold—whose fascinating new film *Blue Vinyl* begins with Judith's parents' decision to put vinyl siding on their Long Island home—and other special guests for an exploration of where the notions of advocacy, stewardship, and faith might intersect. Co-sponsored by The Wilderness Society, Northwest Jewish Environmental Project.



BLUE VINYL

CLOSING NIGHT  
SING • ALONG  
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Sunday April 28 6:30 PM



FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

"WHO? Sunday night will dress up in a costume, join their friends and neighbors, drink a toast to life? AND WHO? on that night will cheer our special guests, and sing along with all of us? THE MAMA...THE PAPA...THE DAUGHTER...THE SON...TRADITION! TRADITION!"



SATURDAY  
20<sup>TH</sup>

NORTHWEST  
PREMIERE

DESSERT  
RECEPTION  
BY CHRISTINE KEFF

8:30 PM

# DESPERADO SQUARE

Northwest Premiere  
Israel 2001, 100 min  
Hebrew w/ subtitles  
Benny Torati, Director

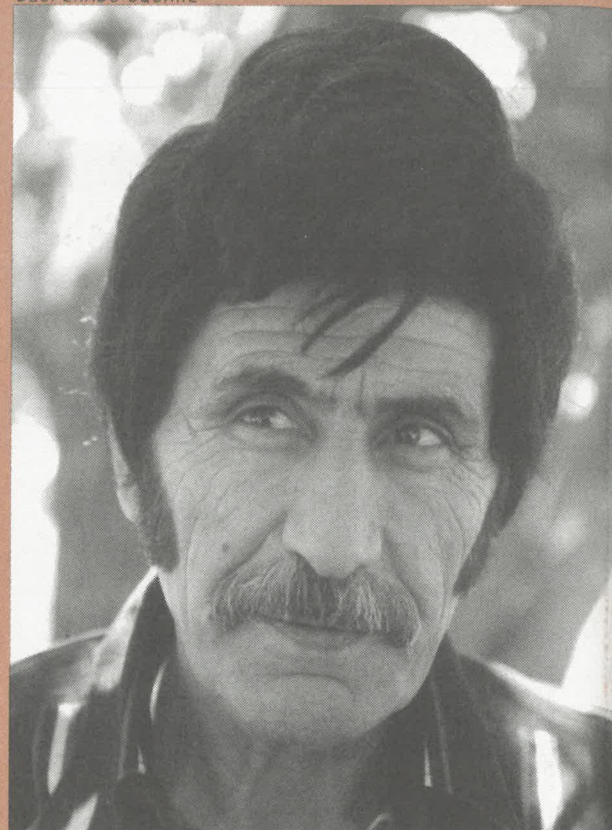


On the eve of the commemoration of his father's death, Nisim has a dream in which his father tells him to break a 25-year-old vow and re-open the neighborhood cinema. His determination to follow through on this dream brings the joy of movies back to the neighborhood, uncovers family secrets, heals old wounds, and, just maybe, reunites true love. A loving portrait of a Sephardic community in Tel Aviv that one suspects exists as much in myth as in memory, *Desperado Square* marks the arrival of a sparkling new voice in Israeli cinema. Winner of five Israeli Academy Awards. (See page 14)

SPECIAL GUESTS:  
SHALOM ENSEMBLE, DONNY INBAR,  
ISRAELI CULTURAL ATTACHÉ

DESSERT RECEPTION BY CHRISTINE KEFF

DESPERADO SQUARE



SUNDAY  
21<sup>ST</sup>

U.S. PREMIERE

ISRAEL AND  
THE MEDIA

THEATRICAL  
PREMIERE

NORTHWEST  
PREMIERE

12:00 PM

# A BOMB IN THE BASEMENT

U.S. Premiere  
Israel 2001, 90 min  
English/Hebrew w/subtitles  
Michael Karpin, Director



The first film to tell the story of the development of the Israeli nuclear option. Featuring extensive interviews with, among others, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, director Michael Karpin's compelling documentary lucidly details the extraordinarily complex, costly, and secretive endeavor that has perhaps guaranteed Israel's survival among nations. *A Bomb in the Basement* aired on Israel's Channel 2 this past winter, a unique event; until then, the Israeli media rarely mentioned Dimona and the Israeli nuclear project.

SPECIAL GUEST:  
MICHAEL KARPIN, DIRECTOR

CO-SPONSORED BY  
THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE

2:00 PM

# ISRAEL AND THE MEDIA PRIMETIME WAR

Northwest Premiere  
Israel 1998, 30 min  
Hebrew w/ subtitles  
Noam Shalev, Director



This film focuses on two cameramen who bring the horror of the Israeli/Arab conflict nightly into homes around the world. Although one is Israeli, working for the Associated Press, and the other is Palestinian, working for the BBC, they are good friends and colleagues. What is remarkable about this film is that it shows how the media affects the very events it covers. The battles heat up and the rhetoric becomes more vociferous when the video cameras roll.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON ISRAEL IN THE  
MEDIA W/ SPECIAL GUESTS:  
MOTI KRAUTHAMER, MICHAEL KARPIN,  
RICHARD TRANK (SEE PAGE 14)

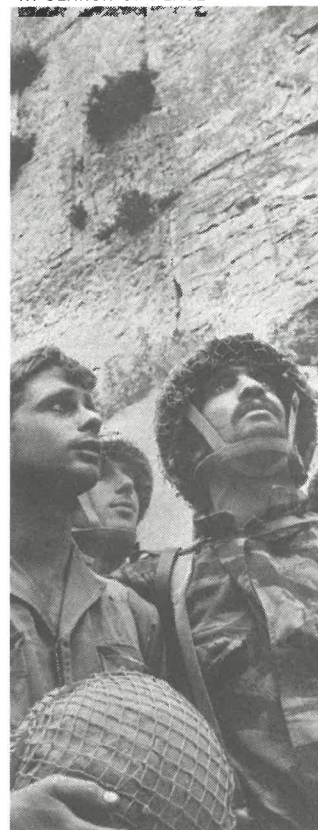
# STREET UNDER FIRE

Northwest Premiere  
Israel 2001, 34 min  
Hebrew w/ subtitles  
Koby Yonatan & Amir Tal, Directors



The Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo has been the target of sniper attacks from the adjacent Palestinian village of Beit Jala since the beginning of the latest Intifada. This timely documentary features interviews with neighbors talking about their personal reactions to their plight. It also presents the Israeli government's reaction—positioning tanks in the streets of their once peaceful neighborhood. As we watch images of mortar attacks on Beit Jala and the continuous firing on Gilo we are made witnesses to the human consequences of the current hostilities.

IN SEARCH OF PEACE



4:30 PM

# IN SEARCH OF PEACE

U.S. 2001  
110 min, English  
Richard Trank, Director



An utterly absorbing recounting of the birth of Israel and the following two decades of conflict, progress, and polarization. Combining a rich tapestry of rare archival film and photos as well as interviews with many of those who helped to shape history, *In Search of Peace* expertly explores a number of difficult issues while still finding space for pride, inspiration, and even laughter. Narrated by Michael Douglas

SPECIAL GUEST:  
RICHARD TRANK, DIRECTOR

SEPHARDIC JEWS OF THE PIKE PLACE MARKET



7:30 PM

# THE SEPHARDIC JEWS OF THE PIKE PLACE MARKET

Theatrical Premiere  
U.S. 2001, 25 min  
English  
Stephen Sadis, Director



Working as fishmongers and produce peddlers, a group of immigrants made Seattle's public market their home, creating a foundation for one of the largest Sephardic communities in the country. Historic photos and interviews with relatives help bring to life many recognizable members of the Seattle Jewish community.

SPECIAL GUEST:  
STEPHEN SADIS, DIRECTOR

CO-SPONSORED BY  
THE CITY OF SEATTLE'S FILM OFFICE



GRIPSHOLM

# GRIPSHOLM

Northwest Premiere  
Germany/Switzerland 2001  
102 min  
German w/ subtitles  
Xavier Koller, Director



In the summer of 1932, a Jewish writer and his girlfriend leave the urban pleasures of Berlin for an idyllic vacation at Castle Gripsholm in Sweden. Two friends—passionate flier Karlchen and seductive cabaret singer Billie—soon join them, and the bohemian scene of Berlin is recreated on a small scale. Based on a semi-auto-biographical novel by Kurt Tucholsky, who once wrote: "You often think that love is stronger than time, but time is always stronger than love." It is the summer of 1932, and soon nothing will ever be the same again in Europe.



# MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> NORTHWEST PREMIERES

7:00 PM

## JEWISH LIFE IN VILNA

Poland 1939, 10 min  
Yiddish w/ subtitles  
Shaul & Yitzak Goskind, Directors



This rare film document captures the spirit of Jewish life in pre-WWII Vilna, the 'Jerusalem of Eastern Europe.'



THE VOW

## THE VOW

Northwest Premiere  
Poland 1937, 82 min  
Yiddish w/ subtitles  
Henry Szaro, Director



Thanks to the National Center for Jewish Film, a newly restored 35mm print brings back to life

one of the last films produced in Europe before the Holocaust. A Yiddish fantasy about Chaim and Mendl, Yeshiva students in Vilna, who make a sacred pact promising a marriage between their unborn children. Competing suitors and the forces of modernization, a clash of the old and the new, threaten to prevent the fulfillment of their vow, resulting in the divine intervention of the prophet Elijah. A delightful treat filled with authentic scenes of Jewish shtetl life, charming Yiddish love songs, and a classic tale of destiny.

**SPECIAL GUEST:**  
PAMELA BROWN-LAVITT, VISITING  
LECTURER IN JEWISH AND WOMEN'S  
STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

9:30 PM

## CLEAN SWEEP

Northwest Premiere  
Israel 2000, 93 min  
Hebrew w/ subtitles  
Oded Davidoff, Director



A romantic thriller about an undercover cop who is set up for a fall by her superior officer, with whom she is having an illicit affair. When she decides to get even, a wild and racy battle of the sexes ensues. A refreshing, enormously popular feature from Israel, starring Yael Hadar.  
**Mature content.**



CLEAN SWEEP

# TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> COMMUNITY FILMTALKS!

7:00 PM

## DIVIDED WE FALL

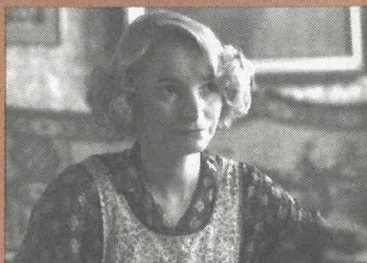
Czech Republic 2000  
100 min  
Czech & German w/ subtitles  
Jan Hrebek, Director



This black, wickedly funny study in moral absurdity was a 2001 Academy Award nominee for Best Foreign Film. In a small Czech village during World War II, a childless couple, Josef and Marie Cizek, hide their former neighbor, a young Jewish man who has managed to escape from the death camps but has lost his entire family. Their other neighbor, Horst, now an enthusiastic Nazi collaborator, drops by at odd hours and begins to suspect. The collaborator's German boss, shattered by the death of his young sons in the war,

announces that he is moving into the couple's spare room, and to keep him away, Marie blurts out that she is with child and saving the room for a nursery. Trouble is, she is not pregnant but needs to be, and the only candidates are her sterile husband, the Nazi follower and the hidden Jew. Scoundrel, ordinary sinner and hero all rub shoulders—and sometimes overlap—in this comedic and poignant tale of human strength and frailty.

Following the film, there will be a facilitated town-hall meeting, led by Bill Grace, Executive Director of the Center for Ethical Leadership (See page 14).



DIVIDED WE FALL

# WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FREE FOR SENIORS MATINEE

## NORTHWEST PREMIERE

CONTINUED ON PG 20

2:00 PM

## KOMEDIANT

Northwest Premiere  
English, Yiddish, &  
Hebrew w/subtitles  
Israel 2000, 81 min  
Arnon Goldfinger, Director



A highly entertaining look at the extraordinary history of Yiddish theater through the tale of one marvelous family -- Pesach'ke Burstein, his wife Lillian Lux, and their talented children. Director Arnon Goldfinger charts the troupe on its amazing journey from Europe, through Israel and South America, all the way to New York's Second Avenue. Brimming with the treasures of Yiddish culture, music and song, *Komediant* interweaves rare clips from dramatic films, musicals, and home movies. The film doubles as an epic family saga, exploring the conflict between the lure of the stage and the confines of home.

**SPECIAL YIDDISH ENTERTAINERS:**  
SHELIA FOX AND LAURIE ANDRES

5:00 PM

## PROMISES

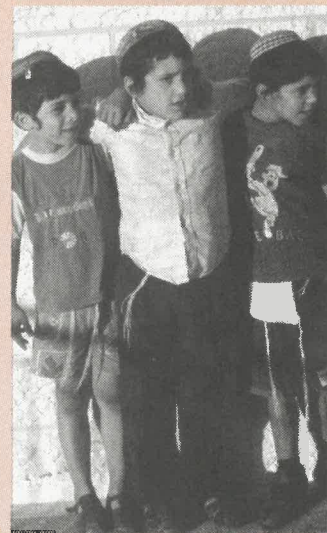
U.S./Israel/P.A. 2001, 108 min  
English/Hebrew/Arabic w/subtitles  
Justine Shapiro, B.Z. Goldberg, and  
Carlos Bolado, Directors



Filmmaker B.Z. Goldberg returns to his hometown of Jerusalem to see what seven children—both Palestinian and Israeli—think about war, peace and just growing up. Each child provides a dramatic, touching and sometimes humorous insight into the Middle East conflict and into the experience of growing up in the charged and complex city of Jerusalem. Though they live only 20 minutes apart, these children exist in completely separate worlds; the physical, historical, and emotional obstacles between them run deep. *Promises* explores this legacy of distrust and bitterness, but signs of hope emerge when some of the Palestinian and Israeli children dare to cross the checkpoints to meet one another. Their connection—captured so

emotionally on camera—doesn't last; it's doomed by the inherent fickleness of youth but, more pointedly, by the political reality of checkpoints and propaganda. Academy Award nominee for Best Documentary.

CO-SPONSORED BY PURSUE THE PEACE



PROMISES

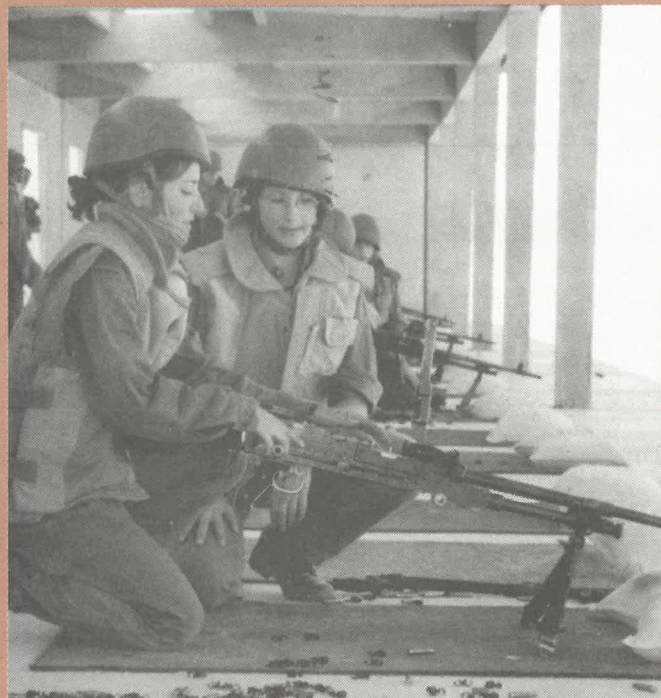


WEDNESDAY  
24<sup>TH</sup>

NORTHWEST  
PREMIERES

NORTH  
AMERICAN  
PREMIERES

CONTINUED FROM 19



COMPANY JASMINE

7:00 PM

**LIVING FOR TOMORROW:  
UNTOLD STORIES BY THE  
PIONEERING WOMEN OF  
ISRAEL**

Northwest Premiere  
USA 2000, 53 min  
Hebrew w/ subtitles  
Lilach Dekel, Director



Two superb documentaries featuring young Israeli women then and now. In *Living for Tomorrow* we hear from a number of Zionists, now in their eighties and nineties, who gave up home and family, following their socialist dreams to pioneer the Kibbutz movement. Made by the granddaughter of one pioneer, the film brings to life the courage required to leave everything familiar behind and adapt to the rigors of desert life as well as the demands of kibbutz ideology.

**COMPANY JASMINE**

Northwest Premiere  
Israel/Azerbaijan 2000, 38 min  
Hebrew w/ subtitles  
Yael Katzir, Director



*Company Jasmine* zeroes in on five of fifty female cadets in training for the prestigious Israeli Women Field Officers School. Over a grueling 5-month period, they contend with rigorous physical training, and deal with significant questions: their identity and worthiness (in their own eyes and in those of society) femininity and the military, battle-readiness and command. Directed by former officer Yael Katzir, the film reflects the startling diversity of today's Israeli youth.

CO-SPONSORED BY:  
WOMEN'S ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

9:00 PM

**THE LAST JEWISH TOWN**

Northwest Premiere  
Israel/Azerbaijan 2000, 38 min  
English & Russian w/ subtitles  
Gil Lesnik, Director



At the beginning of the 18th century, the "mountain Jews" of north Azerbaijan were given a portion of land to run their lives



according to Jewish tradition, without interference. Today, their descendants, numbering around 6000, live according to Sephardic tradition in a town run by both a rabbi and a mayor. *The Last Jewish Town* lovingly captures a way of life that has remained largely uninterrupted for hundreds of years.

**KOSHER FRIENDLY**

North American Premiere  
Bosnia 2001, 50 min  
English/Polish w/ subtitles  
Joseph Rochlitz, Benny Brunner, Directors



*Kosher Friendly* takes us to Wroclaw, where a number of young Poles, having discovered their hidden Jewish roots, are leading a revival of Jewish faith and Jewish culture.

**ADIO KERIDA**

North American Premiere  
Bosnia 2001, 50 min  
Bosnian w/ English subtitles  
Vesna Ljubic, Director



In *Adio Kerida* Peter Lippman, a young Seattleite, journeys to Sarajevo in search of traces of his great-uncle, a photographer who practiced magic and healing, and who apparently possessed the ability to calm down stampeding cows and mad dogs. Along with Peter, we become acquainted with practically the entire world of Sarajevo Sephardic Jews, who speak and sing of their lives in Spain as if it were yesterday.

SPECIAL GUESTS: PETER LIPPMAN,  
VESNA LJUBIC, DIRECTOR

THURSDAY  
25<sup>TH</sup>

NORTHWEST  
PREMIERE

NORTH  
AMERICAN  
PREMIERE

7:00 PM

**TIME OF FAVOR**

Northwest Premiere  
Israel 2000, 98 minutes  
Hebrew w/subtitles  
Joseph Cedar, Director



Winner of six Israeli Academy Awards including Best Picture, *Time of Favor* is a gripping thriller that transcends genre and stereotypes, taking the viewer inside the Orthodox world that director Joseph Cedar knows firsthand. Pini, a brilliant young settler, takes the teachings of his charismatic rabbi literally, and masterminds a plot to blow up the Dome of the Rock mosque on the Temple Mount. Menachem, the commanding officer of an Orthodox soldier's combat unit, and Pini's best friend, is unknowingly drawn into this web of intrigue. He finds himself torn

between his loyalty to his rabbi, his duty as a commanding officer and his love for the rabbi's daughter. While battling to prove his innocence, Menachem is forced to weigh his alliances, his conscience, and indeed everything he has ever believed in.



TIME OF FAVOR



TIME OF FAVOR

9:00 PM

**DIE PRÄSIDENTEN**

North American Premiere  
Germany 2001, 95 min  
English/German w/ subtitles  
Heike Glaser, Director



The story of two men, Alexander Bergmann and Steven Springfield, who met in the Riga ghetto, and then survived the Kaiserwald and Stutthof concentration camps.

After their liberation their ways parted, as Bergmann returned to Riga and Springfield arrived penniless in the US in 1947. Five decades later, each is President of his survivor association, and, in defiance of time and distance, they are once again close friends.

SPECIAL GUESTS: ALEXANDER BERGMANN,  
HEIKE GLASER, DIRECTOR



DIE PRÄSIDENTEN





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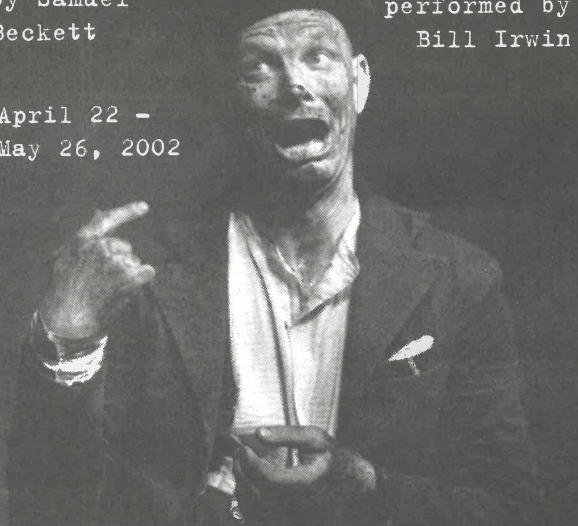
"a compelling vision, a singular brand  
of physical theater, a magnificent  
one man interpretation"  
- The New York Times

## Texts for Nothing

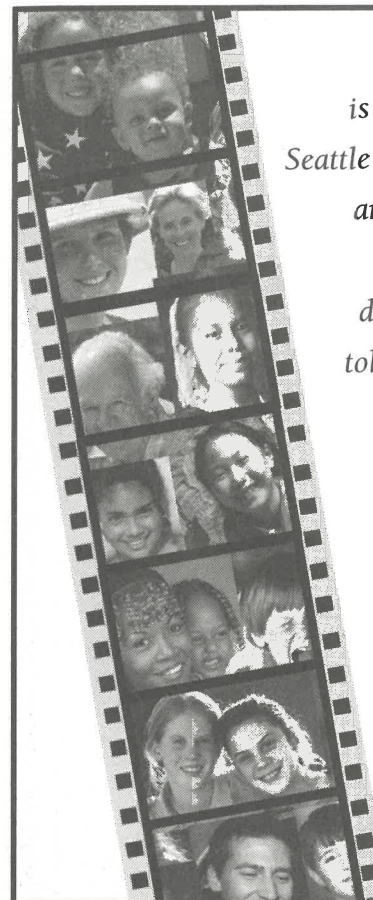
A prose work  
by Samuel  
Beckett

Directed and  
performed by  
Bill Irwin

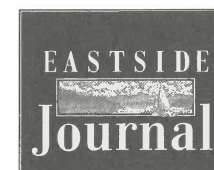
April 22 -  
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FRIDAY  
26<sup>TH</sup>

NEW FRIDAY  
MATINEE  
PROGRAM

1:00 PM

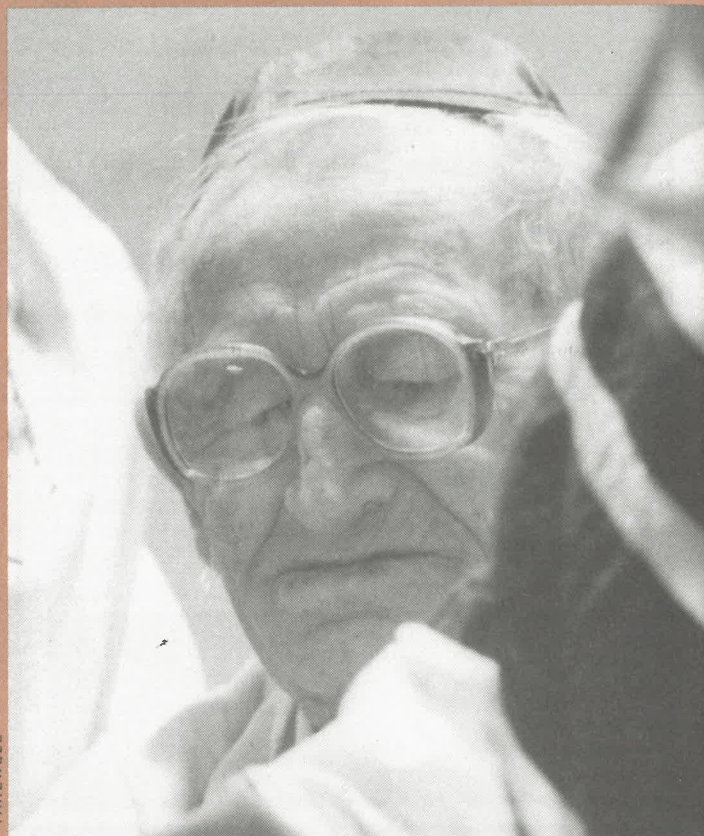
# FAREWELL

Northwest Premiere  
Russia 1994, 27 min  
Russian w/subtitles  
Arkadiy Yakhnis, Director



Yankel is 90 years old and about to leave his small Bessarabian shtetl for the first time. His son, like all his other surviving friends and relatives, is immigrating to Israel and wants to take his father with him. The poignancy of the immigrant experience is highlighted as the old man weighs the pros and cons of leaving the town he has lived in all his life for a new place that he both longs for and fears. An exquisite, hauntingly beautiful film.

FAREWELL



# JUDITH

North American Premiere  
Israel 2001, 50 min  
Hebrew w/subtitles  
Avi Bohbot, Director



This is the compelling story of Christine, a young German gentile, who had long dreamed of immigrating to Israel and linking her fate with the Jewish people. She chooses to undergo a strict, orthodox conversion and takes a new identity and name—Judith. Today, 14 years after her initial absorption, she still feels like a foreigner. Despite her numerous attempts to immerse herself in all aspects of Israeli society, she continues to run into a "glass wall."

# SHE CAME TO PICK ME UP

West Coast Premiere  
France 2001, 20 min, French w/  
subtitles, Ilana Navaro, Director



In this lyrical, sun-drenched fictional film, a woman about to emigrate from Istanbul to Israel to be with her family must first make sure that the door connecting her granddaughter to the past is left open.

# A DREAM OF MOTHER

Northwest Premiere  
Israel 2000, 27 min  
Hebrew & Amharic w/subtitles  
Chava Schein, Hadassah College of  
Technology, Director



Dasesh, a 19-year old Ethiopian girl, has been living in Israel with her father and stepmother for five years. Since their separation, she has dreamed of the arrival of her biological mother from Ethiopia. She finally gets to hug her mother again, but was it just a dream of happiness?

CO-SPONSORED BY HADASSAH



SHE CAME TO PICK ME UP

SATURDAY  
27<sup>TH</sup>

NORTHWEST  
PREMIERE

SEATTLE  
PREMIERE

8:30 PM

# NAJEEB: A PERSIAN GIRL IN AMERICA

Northwest Premiere  
US 2000, 25 min  
English  
Tanaz Eshaghian, Director



Shot in New York and Los Angeles, this film offers a rare glimpse into the inner circles of the tightly knit Persian Jewish community. Come along with Tanaz Eshaghian as she attempts to reconcile her own independence with the expectations of her parents, extended family, and the occasional matchmaker. They attempt to set her up on arranged dates with Iranian Jewish suitors, lament her liberal American upbringing, and generally agitate about the passing of her youth (she has hit the ripe old age of twenty-five). Tanaz explores whether women of her generation can possibly be 'Najeeb'-- the demure, reserved feminine ideal deemed worthy of marriage.

SPECIAL GUEST:  
TANAZ ESHAGHIAN, DIRECTOR

# LATE MARRIAGE

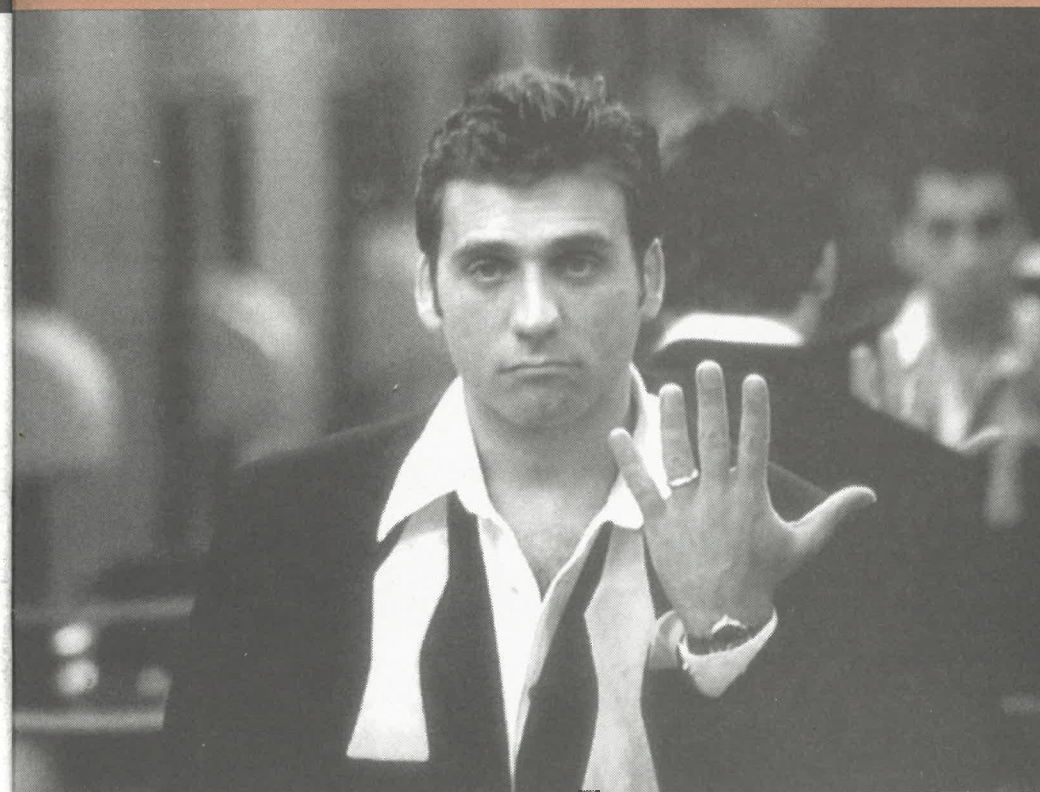
Seattle Premiere  
Israel 2001, 100 min  
Hebrew w/subtitles  
Dover Koshashvili, Director



Handsome and intelligent, Zaza is working on his doctorate in philosophy in Tel Aviv. Yasha and Lili proudly consider their son an excellent catch, so they find it disconcerting that Zaza is still not married at 31. He humors his parents as they expound on the need for him to marry a young virgin and suffers as they take him to meet one "suitable" girl after another. But he is uninterested: in brazen disregard of his parents' strict Georgian tradition, Zaza is in love with the smolderingly beautiful Judith, a 34-year-old Moroccan divorcee. The situation is a disaster in the eyes of Zaza's family and is made all the worse by the fact that Judith has a six-year-old

daughter. *Late Marriage* is a riveting portrait of rigid cultural traditions and the harm that can be done when we ignore the urgings of the heart. Tragic and funny in equal parts, the film marks a highly impressive launch to director Dover Kosashvili's feature filmmaking career. Israel's nominee for this year's Best Foreign Film.

CONTAINS EXPLICIT  
MATURE CONTENT



LATE MARRIAGE



SUNDAY  
28<sup>TH</sup>

## BAGEL AND FILM BRUNCH

10:00 AM

### THE SWEETEST SOUND

Northwest Premiere  
U.S. 2001, 80 min,  
English  
Alan Berliner, Director



Alan Berliner is a lawyer in Columbus, Ohio. Alan Berliner is a social worker in Seattle, Washington. Alan Berliner is a celebrity photographer in Los Angeles, California. Tired of being mistaken for these people and anyone else who might share his name, Alan Berliner, the filmmaker from New York—not to be confused with Belgian filmmaker Alan Berliner—decides to rid himself of the dreaded Same Name Syndrome. His solution: invite all the Alan Berliners in the world over to his house for dinner. With the intimacy and humor of a personal essay, Berliner dives headfirst inside the American name pool in search of the treasures and dangers hidden inside his own name.

SWEETEST SOUND



### WE GOT US

Northwest Premiere  
U.S. 2001, 24 min, English  
Joan Brooker, Director



A moving picture of four elderly New Yorkers who meet regularly over a two-year period. They play Mah Jongg and talk about their lives as wives, mothers, lovers, widows, and friends. Sweet and funny, this is a small gem that is not to be missed!

### WHITE FACE

U.S. 2001, 14 min  
English  
Brian McDonald, Director



Local director Brian McDonald explores a subject few of us are comfortable with: the humiliating slights and prejudices encountered on an almost daily basis by Clowns in our society.

### OBSESSED WITH JEWS

U.S. 2000, 8 min  
English  
Jeff Krulik, Director



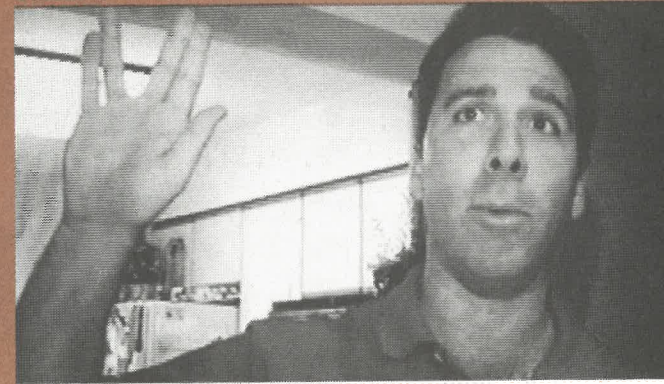
Popular demand requires that we bring back this hilarious portrait of Neil Keller, who is busy collecting the names and artifacts of every famous, and infamous, Jew on Earth.

SPECIAL GUESTS:  
SEATTLE'S OWN ALAN BERLINER, BRIAN  
MCDONALD, DIRECTOR (SEE PAGE 15)

WHITE FACE



OBSESSED WITH JEWS



SUNDAY  
28<sup>TH</sup>

## ARGENTINIAN CRISIS

## THE GREENING OF JUDAISM

1:00 PM

### ARGENTINIAN CRISIS UNHEARD VOICES

North American Premiere  
U.S. 2001, 11 min  
English  
Beth Toni Kruvant, Director



### THE SEVENTH DAY

Seattle Premiere  
Argentina/U.S. 2000, 15 min  
Spanish w/ subtitles  
Gabriel Lichtmann, Director



### TO LIVE WITH TERROR

West Coast Premiere  
U.S. 2001, 60 min  
English/Spanish w/ subtitles  
Ton Vriens, Director



Three new films from an Argentina currently racked by terrorism and its consequences. *To Live with Terror* is a provocative investigation of the car bombing of the Israeli embassy in 1992, the destruction of the Jewish Community Center two years later, and the ensuing political cover-ups. *Unheard Voices* details how these horrific events, coupled with the collapse of the Argentine economy, have ripped apart the Jewish community. Unexpectedly, *The Seventh Day* uses the situation to comic effect, as new security changes, and old economic woes, conspire against a Buenos Aires family's attempts to conduct a Bar Mitzvah.

SPECIAL GUEST:  
BETH TONI KRUVANT, DIRECTOR



TO LIVE WITH TERROR

BLUE VINYL



3:30 PM

### GREENING OF JUDAISM BLUE VINYL

West Coast Premiere  
U.S. 2002, 101 min, English  
Judith Helfand & Daniel Gold,  
Directors



With humor, hope, and a piece of vinyl siding firmly in hand, Peabody Award-winning filmmaker Judith Helfand and co-director Daniel B. Gold travel from Helfand's hometown to America's vinyl manufacturing capital and beyond in search of answers about the nature of polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Her parents' decision to "re-side" their house with this seemingly benign cure-all for many suburban homes turns into a toxic odyssey with twists and turns that most ordinary homeowners would never dare to take. The result is a humorous but sobering and uniquely personal exploration of the relationship between consumers and industry.

PANEL DISCUSSION: JUDITH HELFAND,  
DIRECTOR, RABBI TED FALCON, BARAK  
GALE, NWJEP • MODERATED BY: KATHY  
FLETCHER, PEOPLE FOR PUGET SOUND  
(SEE PAGE 15)



SUNDAY  
28<sup>TH</sup>

CLOSING  
NIGHT  
SING-ALONG

6:30 PM

**FIDDLER ON THE ROOF**

U.S., 1971, 178 min  
English  
Norman Jewison, Director

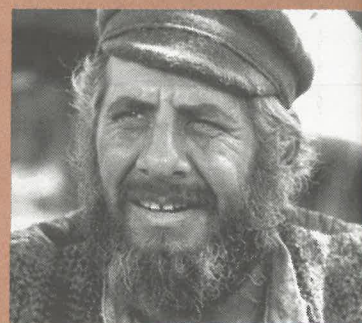


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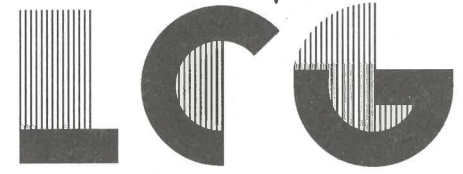
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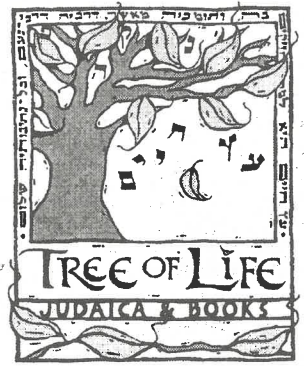


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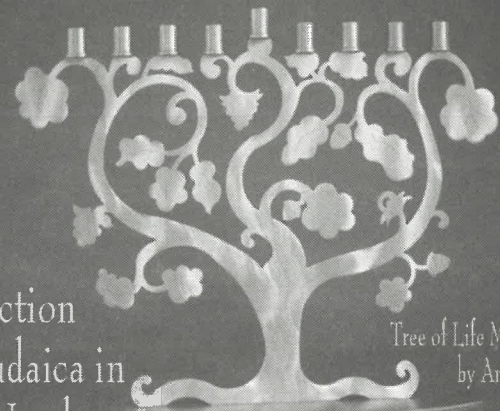


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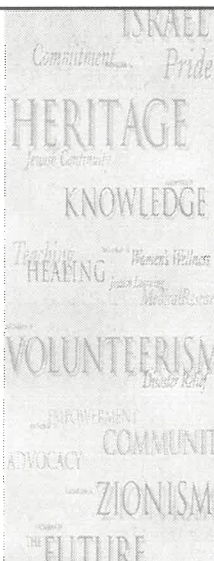
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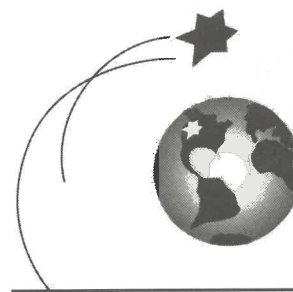
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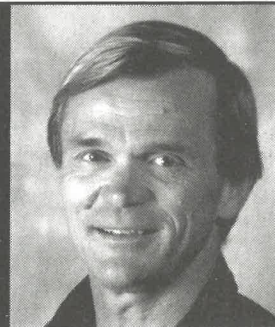
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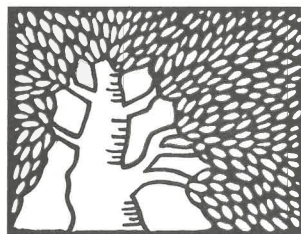
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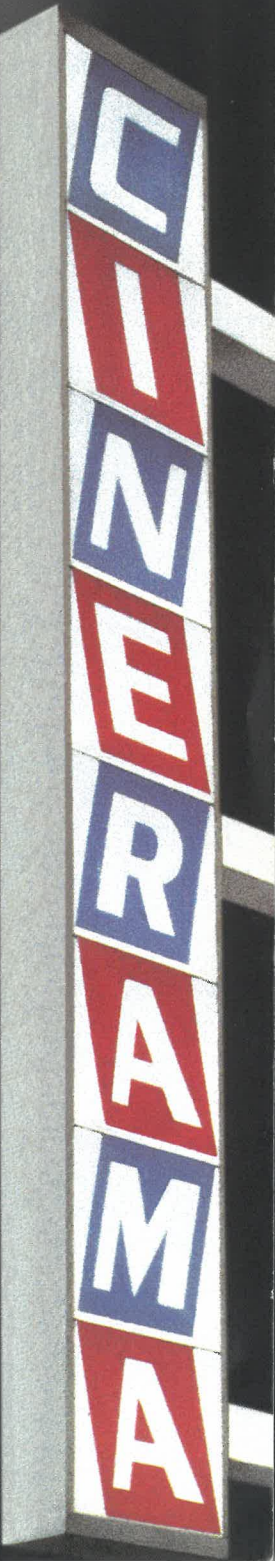
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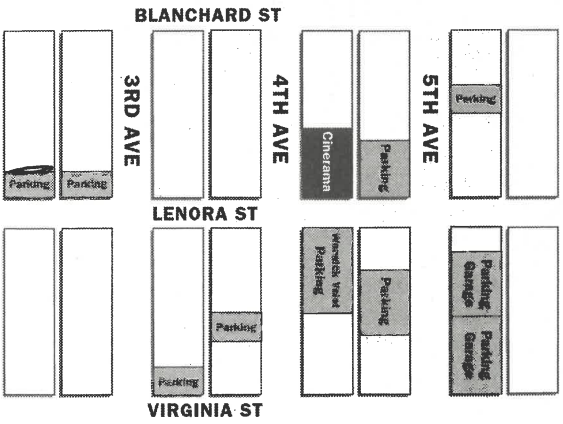
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