

8 ANNUAL

SEATTLE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

MARCH 8-16

cinerama theatre



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ROMANCE



MYSTERY

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Gregg Lachow
Film Curator

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PR and Events Coordinator

Michael Ragozin
Development Coordinator

Ilana Cone
FILMTalks! Coordinator

Sarah Rinzler
Print Traffic

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HAVE WE GOT A FESTIVAL FOR YOU!

Our eighth season finds us in a comfortable role as the largest annual Jewish event in the Northwest. Last year's survey revealed some fascinating facts about you, the nearly 8,000 local community members who attend SJFF. We found that 38% of those sampled had never attended the film festival before. This is amazing! SJFF continues to grow by word of mouth. To us, this means that we have a thriving, active, and interested community. We applaud your enthusiasm for SJFF and your ability to sustain the strength of Greater Seattle's arts programs.

We also found that Israeli history and society topped the list of interests for our film-goers. We continue to bring varied visions of Israel to our festival, with the distinct understanding that our individual definitions of 'what it means to be Jewish' are closely tied, especially at a time like this, to the land of Israel. This year's films bring the reality of Israel's birth to light in new ways (*Kedma*) while also sharing 17 different Israeli director's snapshots of contemporary life (*Moments Israel: 2002*). Of course, we cannot ignore the struggles that every human being in Israel goes through, and decided to take a pro-active role in discussing films that address everything from terrorism (*Israel in a Time of Terror*) and the settlements (*The Settlers*) to inter-faith love affairs (*A Trumpet in the Wadi*) and the escapist fantasies of every-day Palestinians (*Divine Intervention*).

Did we say comfortable?

Indeed our "Can We Talk?!" platform has never been a more critical component of our programming. While we feel honored to be able to provide a week full of delightful humor, inspiring ideas, and magical reflections on the past, we also feel obligated to explore sticky situations and learn from each other through dialogue. Using the model of the American Jewish Committee, the oldest human rights organization in the United States, we view the structure of the Festival itself as a powerful forum within which to explore and discuss themes important to our Jewish community.

Equally as important, we found that you attend SJFF because you love film. We remain committed to bringing the best of Jewish film from around the world to the Cinerama for your enjoyment. We find laughter in unsuspected places (*Hitler's Hat*) and pair that with fresh news about an unsurpassed classic (*The Tramp and the Dictator*). Our films celebrate Middle Eastern musical heritage (*Café Noah and Taqasim*), bring us to the Sephardic quarters of a Greek Island (*Anna's Summer*), and introduce us to the first Jewish state (*L'Chayim Comrade Stalin*).

Without the support of our corporate sponsors and generous donors this week would not be possible. We ask that you continue to support all of the businesses that support SJFF with the same enthusiasm that you attend this week of film.

However you choose to travel the week with us, on behalf of the American Jewish Committee Seattle Chapter, please know we are thrilled that you have chosen to join each other in the pursuit of art, wisdom and entertainment.

Lisa I. Mandel

Lisa Mandel

Holly

Holly M. Redell

Miriam

Miriam Sevy

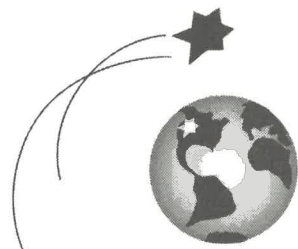
Seattle Jewish Film Festival Co-Chairs

Molly S. Hasson

Molly S. Hasson
Festival Director

Gregg Lachow

Gregg Lachow
Festival Curator



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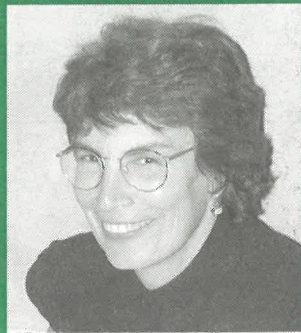
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Dear Friends,

The Seattle Chapter of the American Jewish Committee is delighted to present the Eighth Annual Seattle Jewish Film Festival, a gem in our programming year. SJFF has become one of the anticipated events of the Jewish year in Seattle: it's where the entire community comes together to share the richness and diversity of Jewish culture.

Many of the films this year are pertinent to these trying times; some are controversial. SJFF provides a valuable forum for individuals with different viewpoints to come together to grapple with difficult issues. Providing such forums is a key function of the AJC, but, of course, that is not all. This year's film selections include our usual wide variety of comedy, feature films and documentaries. Variety is another hallmark of SJFF.

This year's Film Festival also marks the 6th anniversary of FILMTalks!. On Thursday the 13th, FILMTalks! will bring together 400 Seattle-area high school students for an all-day prejudice reduction workshop. Expanding upon our success, AJC now brings FILMTalks! into the classroom at four local high schools.

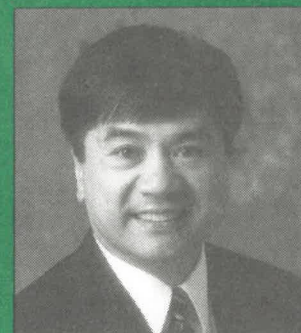
Our AJC chapter is thriving. In the past year, AJC and ADL co-sponsored a rally in support of Israel and America's war on terrorism. Steve Pomerantz, former head of the FBI's anti-terrorism unit, spoke to us about current anti-terrorism activities. Dan Levitas spoke about the dangers posed by the white supremacist movement, and we presented a panel discussion about America, Oil, Iraq and War. In October, we recognized Helen Jackson and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation with AJC's Human Relations Award, and in January we co-sponsored a Shabbat evening service honoring Supreme Court Justice C.Z. Smith. And this spring, 20 high school students will receive the Max Block Award for Human Relations, recognizing the human relations efforts of young people.

Our Seattle chapter is part of the national AJC, which does amazing things. Check out its superb web site, www.ajc.org. If you are not yet a member of AJC please consider joining. Membership and tax-deductible contributions are the foundation upon which AJC builds its programs.

A sincere thank you to the SJFF and AJC staff who have worked tirelessly to bring this festival to you: Molly Hasson, Gregg Lachow, Ilana Cone, Michael Ragozin, Nicole Gyulay, Sarah Rinzler, Rabbi Rick Harkavy and Julie Epstein. Also, thank you to our dedicated co-chairs, Lisa Mandel, Miriam Sevy and Holly Redell. Last, thank you, our audience, volunteers and supporters for your enthusiasm and participation over the past eight years. Enjoy!

Warmly,

Carol Gown
President of the Seattle Chapter



Greetings,

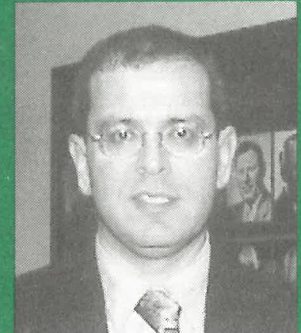
As Governor of the state of Washington, I am pleased to extend my greetings to all of those attending the eighth annual Seattle Jewish Film Festival!

This outstanding celebration, presented by the American Jewish Committee, has become one of Washington's premiere cultural arts events. I understand that over 10,000 local and out-of-state visitors are expected to attend this year's showings. This growth, although impressive, is not surprising. From its inception, the festival has provided audience members with a fascinating glimpse into the Jewish experience. Its offerings have been, by turns, informative, witty, challenging, and extremely moving. This is cinema that both celebrates a vibrant culture and emphasizes our common humanity.

I hope you greatly enjoy the stories that will unfold before you, and wish the Seattle Jewish Film Festival many years of continued success.

Sincerely,

Gary Locke
Governor



Shalom,

It is now a tradition for the American Jewish committee and the Seattle community to host the Seattle Jewish Film Festival, now in its eighth year.

The festival, with its rich variety of films from different continents in different languages, portrays the complexity of Jewish life in this time of transition in human history, as we have entered the third millennium.

Jewish lives in Tel Aviv, New York, Jerusalem, Seattle, Moscow or Paris, are once again about a struggle, how to maintain Jewish continuity, how to define the meaning of being Jewish and how to complement our Jewish character and identity with our personalities as Israelis, as Americans, as people who live in different environments.

This year's festival takes place as our people struggles to defend Israel and allow it to live in peace and security. The many films from Israel and elsewhere are a great illustration of the strength of our spirit and our determination to overcome critical challenges.

I send my best wishes to all of you and a warm greeting to the Washington State Chapter of the American Jewish Committee for their important work on behalf of Jewish life. ✡

Sincerely,

Yossi Amrani
Consul General of Israel
Pacific Northwest Region



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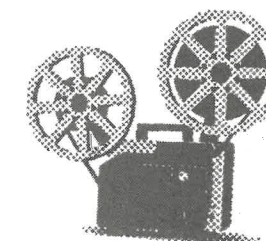
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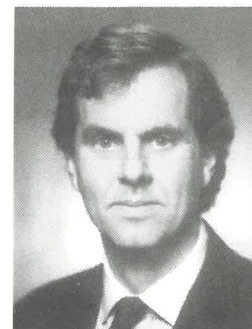
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Greetings,

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 reaffirm the ties that bind us in these unsettling times. 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 eighth 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
Executive Director



The American Jewish Committee
Advancing democracy, pluralism and mutual understanding

Visit AJC Seattle Board Members in the lobby of the Cinerama
during the festival for more information about AJC
Visit us on the web at www.ajc.org



"I will positively and appropriately express my opinions against any form of injustice.."

Each year 400 high school students from the Seattle Area congregate at the Seattle Jewish Film Festival for our day-long diversity training workshop: FILMTalks! The goal of this ground-breaking program is to foster respect and understanding among individuals of different backgrounds, races, cultures, and religions, using film to promote dialogue about core values.

"I promise I won't stand by while someone is doing what they shouldn't"

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.

"I refuse to let myself be afraid of people different from me"

The American Jewish Committee of Greater Seattle is proud to support our youth and community, embrace diversity, and stand strong against bigotry. We would like to thank the following sponsors:





Can We Talk?!

A healthy democracy recognizes the nuances of free speech. Art, for instance, speaks a different language from politics. Whereas political discourse seeks to define, refine, and convince, art seeks to explore and question. The one seeks to cut through complexity, the other revels in it. Film festivals like ours try to do both, and with the help of our wonderful audience, often succeed. We are proud to host a broad diversity of opinion during the eight days we are together.

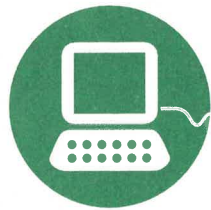
This year a number of films challenge us to at least confront, if not revel in, the complexity of certain contemporary issues. We look forward to the discussions that will follow such difficult (and artistically thrilling) films as, *Divine Intervention*, *Yellow Asphalt*, *Kedma*, *My Terrorist*, *The Settlers*, *Moments Israel 2002*, *Amen*, and others.

This year we have expanded our discussion forum to include new avenues of communication. We invite you to participate in one or more of the following:



Post-Film Discussion

We have invited directors, local and national experts, and first hand witnesses to deepen understanding, provide focus and illuminate complexities. This is the best form of discourse: listening and sharing.



Online Bulletin Board

For those who like to savor and sift through the thoughts and emotions that a film can evoke, the discussions immediately following a film's screening sometimes come too soon. We welcome you to post and read opinions and observations about all of our terrific films.
www.ajcseattle.org



Schmooze Radio

We are pleased to host "Schmooze Radio" KKOL AM 1300 and KLFE AM 1590, Seattle's Jewish talk show, which will broadcast live from the theatre lobby Sunday afternoons. Feel free to listen at home, or live in our lobby, and perhaps even participate in an on-air discussion with co-hosts Moti Krautamer and Rabbi Elazar Bogomilsky.



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SEATTLE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL 2003 THEMES

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

Some say that having a G-d you can argue with means having a G-d you can joke with. Others say that Jews throughout history have relied on humor to overcome the pain of persecution. Whatever the cause, the films in this series incorporate and celebrate the ability of humor to keep Jews afloat on today's rough seas and grounded in the joys of Jewish culture.

The mission of the American Jewish Committee includes safeguarding the continuity and ensuring the future quality of Jewish life. In 2000 the AJC, along with the Norman Lear Center, published *Television's Changing Image of American Jews*. This fascinating book takes a look at the continuum of Jewish comedy in America from Jack Benny to Jerry Seinfeld, revealing the profound impact of *shtick* in our everyday lives.



ISRAEL: THIS LAND IS MY LAND

Arguably, Israel is at the center of our world's politics, bolstered and buffeted on all sides. Like no other, it is a land that holds the promise of both unparalleled triumph and devastating heartbreak. This year a number of directors have resolutely and forcibly trained their cameras on issues of sovereignty and human rights, in the process encouraging dialogue and creating some extraordinary films.

As active, long-time supporters of an Arab-Israeli peace process based on direct bilateral negotiations and advanced with American assistance, AJC remains committed to the principle that Israel and its neighbors ultimately should resolve their differences at the bargaining table rather than in the streets or on a battlefield.



THE ALLY WITHIN

"If not me, than who?" Hillel's famous question resonates with obligation but also with opportunity. Right up to and including the present day, Jewish history has been fraught with confrontations with real evil, but also, and more importantly, with examples of true heroism. The protagonists in these films discover that times of crisis offer the opportunity to learn from and act on the best that is within us.

AJC is committed to recognizing community leaders who demonstrate their profound commitment to human rights. In 2002 AJC Seattle honored Helen Jackson for her efforts in the fields of public service, the environment, human rights and international affairs. Every June, the Max H. Block Human Relations Award is bestowed upon local high school seniors honoring their contributions to strengthening inter-group relations and promoting respect for the humanity of others without regard to race, ethnicity or national origin. AJC fosters future heroes and celebrates acts of altruism.



WARNING!
CONTAINS ADULT CONTENT

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

DATE	TIME	FILM	COUNTRY	LEGEND	LENGTH
SATURDAY March 8th	7:30	OPENING NIGHT DESSERT GALA NOWHERE IN AFRICA	Germany		2h 21m
SUNDAY March 9th	12:00	TAQASIM	Israel		43m
		CAFÉ NOAH	Israel		27m
	2:00	SHOES FROM AMERICA	Russia/Germany		1h 29m
	4:00	THE SETTLERS	Israel		58m
		ISRAEL IN A TIME OF TERROR	U.S.A.		26m
MONDAY March 10th	7:30	A FESTIVAL UNDER WAR	Israel		17m
		GOD IS GREAT	France		1h 35m
MONDAY March 10th	6:00	SECRET LIVES	U.S.A.		1h 12m
	8:00	DIVINE INTERVENTION	France/Morocco/ Germany/Palestinian Territories		1h 40m
TUESDAY March 11th	6:30	L'CHAYIM COMRADE STALIN	U.S.A.		1h 29m
	8:45	YELLOW ASPHALT	Israel		1h 27m
WEDNESDAY March 12th	2:00	SENIOR MATINEE MOTEL THE OPERATOR	U.S.A.		1h 28m
	5:00	SHANGHAI GHETTO	U.S.A.		1h 37m
	7:00	ANNA'S SUMMER	Germany/Greece/Spain		1h 48m
	9:15	KEDMA	Israel/France/Italy		1h 40m
THURSDAY March 13th	6:30	MY TERRORIST	Israel		58m
		MOMENTS ISRAEL 2002	Israel		56m
	9:00	A TRUMPET IN THE WADI	Israel		1h 37m
FRIDAY March 14th	1:00	A BRIDGE OF BOOKS	U.S.A.		13m
		THE SMILE OF ISAAC	France		52m
		ALL I'VE GOT	Israel		1h 8m
SATURDAY March 15th	7:30	AMEN	France		2h 10m
	10:00	GIRAFFES	Israel		1h 55m
SUNDAY March 16th	10:00	BAGEL BRUNCH SHTICK, SCHMALTZ AND SHTEREOTYPES	U.S.A.		2h
	1:00	THE COLLECTOR OF BEDFORD STREET	U.S.A.		37m
		SHALOM Y'ALL	U.S.A.		1h
	3:00	THE TRAMP AND THE DICTATOR	Great Britain/Germany		54m
		HITLER'S HAT	U.S.A.		50m
SUNDAY March 16th	6:30	CLOSING NIGHT SING • ALONG FIDDLER ON THE ROOF	U.S.A.		2h 58m

SPECIAL EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT NOWHERE IN AFRICA

Saturday March 8, 7:30 pm

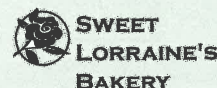
This Golden Globe-nominee for Best Foreign Language Film is the extraordinary true tale of a Jewish family that flees the Nazi regime in 1938 for a remote farm in Kenya. Winner of five 2002 Golden Lola (German Film) Awards, including best film, director and cinematography, *Nowhere in Africa* was written and directed by Caroline Link (whose *Beyond Silence* was nominated for a 1996 Best Foreign Film Oscar), and based on the best-selling autobiographical novel by Stephanie Zweig. This will be a night to savor and celebrate, with refreshments by Starbucks, scrumptious food provided by Tom Douglas Catering, and live music by the terrific Shalom Ensemble.



FREE-FOR-SENIORS-MATINEE MOTEL THE OPERATOR

Wednesday March 12, 2 pm

The National Center for Jewish Film (NCJF), was established to gather, preserve, and disseminate film material relevant to the Jewish experience. This year, we are pleased to present the Center's newly-restored print of the Yiddish classic, *Motel the Operator*. Focusing on a labor dispute in the garment district of New York City, the film survives as an important historical document highlighting the hardships of the Jewish immigrant experience in America. Come and enjoy the fantastic fiddling of Klezmer expert Yale Strom, and delicious treats from Sweet Lorraine's, then revel in what *The Film Daily* in 1940 called "a sorrowful and tragic melodrama in the best Yiddish tradition."



BAGEL AND FILM BRUNCH SHTICK, SCHMALTZ, and SHTEREOTYPES

Sunday March 16, 10:00 am.

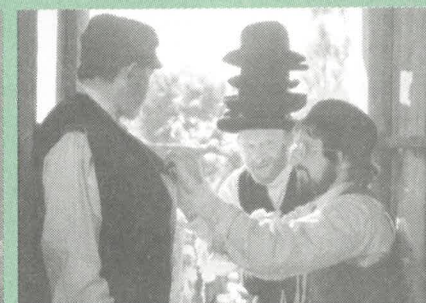
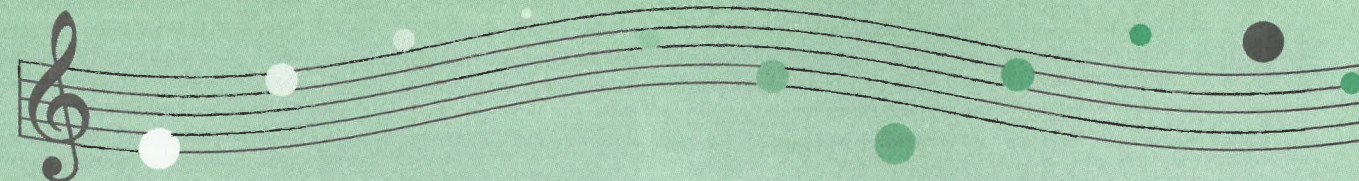
What's so funny? These great shorts by such masters as Jack Benny, Burns and Allen, Mel Brooks, and more. Jewish humor, a touchstone of Jewish identity and sensibility, is also nourishing for the soul. Come join us for our eagerly awaited bagel brunch; the whole family will be fed by this fantastic collection of seldom-seen comedy classics, curated and introduced by film historian Murray Glass, kicking off a day-long selection of films that warm the heart and tickle the funny bone. Before the film, join us in the lobby for a traditional bagel feast.



CLOSING NIGHT SING • ALONG FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Sunday March 16, 6:30 pm

As the sun sets on the 2003 Seattle Jewish Film Festival, join us in celebrating our new TRADITION—the closing night sing-along to *Fiddler on the Roof*. This year we will light up the big Cinerama screen with a beautiful technicolor 35mm print. And, seeing as it's "Purim Eve," we'll have a costume parade and award fabulous prizes to those dressed for the occasion. So join your friends and neighbors and our special guests in drinking a toast to life, to life, l'chayim! Please note: last year we sold out, so get your tickets early and join in the fun!



Glazer's
Camera

TRANSCRIPT
THE JEWISH

8TH SAT

7:30 PM

OPENING
NIGHT GALA

SEATTLE
PREMIERE

NOWHERE IN AFRICA

Seattle Premiere
Germany, 2002, 141 min.
German w/subtitles
Caroline Link, Director



A love story spanning two continents, *Nowhere in Africa* is the extraordinary tale of a Jewish family that narrowly escapes the Nazi regime in 1938 for a remote farm in colonial Kenya. Abandoning their once-comfortable existence in Germany, Walter Redlich, his wife Jettel (Juliane Köhler, of *Aimee and Jaguar*) and their five-year-old daughter Regina each deal with the harsh realities of their new life in different ways. Attorney Walter is resigned to working the farm as a caretaker; pampered Jettel resists adjustment at every turn; while the shy yet curious Regina immediately embraces the country – learning the local language and customs, and finding a friend in Owuor, the farm's cook. While the war rages far away, the trio's relationships

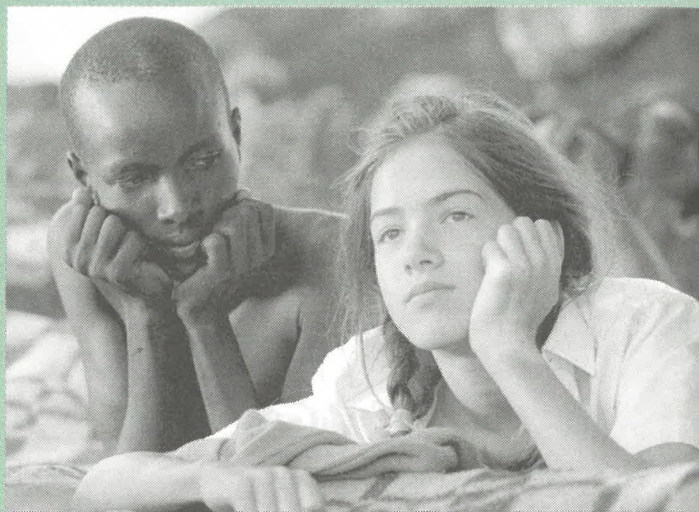
to their strange environment and to each other become increasingly complicated, as Jettel grows more self-assured and Walter more haunted by the life they left behind. As they eventually learn to cherish their life in Africa, they must finally choose between their homeland and the country that saved their

lives. Based on Stefanie Zweig's autobiographical novel and shot on location in Kenya, *Nowhere in Africa* is a magnificent, big-screen family saga.

SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST:
SHALOM ENSEMBLE

DESSERT RECEPTION BY
TOM DOUGLAS CATERING

NOWHERE IN AFRICA



9TH SUN

12:00

TAAQASIM

Israel 2001 43 min.
Hebrew/Arabic w/subtitles
Duki Dror, Director



After 47 years in Israel, violinist Felix Mizrahi retains a strong attachment to his roots in Egypt. Felix decides to return to Cairo to search for long lost recordings of his older brother's work, and to revisit the sites of his childhood memories and of Egypt's once thriving and vibrant Jewish community. A sweet reminder of a time when Arabs and Jews lived together in harmony.

CAFÉ NOAH

Israel, 1996, 27 min.
Hebrew w/subtitles
Duki Dror, Director



After its independence in 1948, Jewish musicians from Baghdad and Cairo immigrated to Israel. They were masters in Arabic music, but their gifts were undervalued in their new homeland. Café Noah was the one place their music found its audience. A reunion concert at the site of the old cafe celebrates this extraordinary legacy.

SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST:
DUNYA TURKISH MUSIC TRIO

2:00

SHOES FROM AMERICA

West Coast Premiere
Russia/Germany, 2001 89 min.
Russian/Polish/German w/subtitles
Arkadiy Yakhnis, Director



Those who saw *Farewell* at last year's Festival know director Arkadi Yakhnis as a poet with a camera. Here he returns with a tender requiem for loved ones lost, and a wondrous tale of love regained. 70-year-old Isaac survived the terrible war years alone in the basement of his neighbor's house. He now awaits the coming of the Messiah, who will reunite him with all of his perished loved ones. Slowly, people and activity return to his Ukrainian village: Wanda, who survived a concentration camp; David, Isaac's son-in-law, who fought in the army in Africa; Helena, Wanda's sister whom David has loved since childhood; and Lapchikha, who hid Isaac during the war. When Isaac meets the gypsy Maria, herself left bereft by the Holocaust, a strange, funny, and tender romance begins.

SHOES FROM AMERICA



WEST COAST
PREMIERE

NORTHWEST
PREMIERE

THE SETTLERS



A FESTIVAL UNDER WAR



4:00

THE SETTLERS

Northwest Premiere
Israel, 2002 58 min.
Hebrew w/subtitles
Ruth Walk, Director



Director Ruth Walk interviews Orthodox women about their motivations for settling in Hebron. In a war zone in which their enemies live yards away, the military is a daily presence in their lives. This unique film asks difficult questions about the continued survival of these devoted communities in a country which struggles daily with their existence.

ISRAEL IN A TIME OF TERROR

West Coast Premiere
U.S.A., 2002 26 min.
English and Hebrew with subtitles.
Dennis Prager, Director



Terror bombing after terror bombing, day after day. Well-known radio personality Dennis Prager went to Israel to learn more about how some Israelis deal with this pervasive terror.

CO-SPONSORED BY
JEWISH WOMEN'S ENDOWMENT



Post-Screening discussion
(Guest(s) TBA)

ISRAEL IN A TIME OF TERROR



GOD IS GREAT, I AM NOT



7:30

A FESTIVAL UNDER WAR

Northwest Premiere
Israel, 2002, 17 min.
Hebrew/English w/subtitles
Yaron Shane, Director



In the midst of the current Intifada, the Jerusalem Film Festival struggles with security concerns and Arab boycotts, as well as Jewish fear and anger. What is the role of art and film in a country that is struggling with itself?

CO-SPONSORED BY
TREE OF LIFE JUDAICA & BOOKS

GOD IS GREAT, I AM NOT

France, 2001, 95 min.
French w/subtitles
Pascale Bailly, Director



A delightful romantic fable, with a sparkling cast led by Audrey Tautou, of *Amelie* fame. Tautou plays Michèle, a sweet and slightly crazy Parisian model whose relationship with her boyfriend has gone bust, leaving her emotionally and spiritually adrift. Enter into her life Francois, an easy-going, Jewish veterinarian. Their nascent relationship is soon on firm footing; that is, until Michèle abandons her Buddhist texts and decides to convert to Judaism. As secular as Michèle is spiritually inclined, François can't quite muster the requisite enthusiasm for his girlfriend's energetic embrace of all things Jewish, especially when she insists that he prove his love by being more observant. With a remarkably light touch, first-time feature director Pascale Bailly explores Jewish identity, interfaith coupling, and France's ethnic mix.

10TH MON

NORTHWEST PREMIERE

6:00

SECRET LIVES

Northwest Premiere
U.S.A., 2002 72 min.
English
Aviva Slesin, Director

When Jewish children were saved from the Nazis during WWII, many times it was non-Jews who hid them inside their homes. For months and sometimes years at a time these children were cut off from the world, at great risk to everyone involved. Academy Award winner Aviva Slesin's intensely personal documentary tells the remarkable stories of some of these children and their rescuers. An inspirational account

of ordinary people behaving extraordinarily, *Secret Lives* reveals courage and strength of character under the worst conditions in the history of human conflict. Slesin, herself one of these hidden children, writes, "For a long time I thought of this as the work of my dreams. Then I started to understand that it was also the work of my nightmares."

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WASHINGTON STATE HOLOCAUST
EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER

Special Guests:
Aviva Slesin (director) and
Toby Appleton Perl (co-writer)

SECRET LIVES



8:00

DIVINE INTERVENTION

France, Morocco, Germany,
Palestinian Territories, 2002 100min.
Arabic/Hebrew w/subtitles
Elia Suleiman, Director

Elia Suleiman is perhaps the most important filmmaker in the Arab world today, making him an artist whom Israeli Jews, and the world at large, must grapple with. *Divine Intervention*, winner of the Grand Jury Prize at Cannes, has already provoked impassioned discussion around the world. Now it is our turn. As Leslie Camhi writes in *The NY Times*, the film is "a series of elegant, barbed gags, distilling the frustration, rage and hopelessness of contemporary Palestinian existence into a wry burlesque. Imagine Jacques Tati stumbling, with impeccable comic timing, across the potholes of the Middle East. Mr. Suleiman manages to infuse the region's dark conflicts with a gleeful absurdism." A challenging,

cutting fantasy, *Divine Intervention* is a work of art that should not be ignored.



Special Guests:
Kathleen Murphy (film critic and teacher), Deborah
Rosen (immediate past President, AJC Seattle), and
Dave Ross (KIRO talk-show host).
Moderated by Gregg Lachow (SIFF Curator)

DIVINE INTERVENTION



11TH TUE

SEATTLE PREMIERE

6:30

L'CHAYIM COMRADE STALIN

Seattle Premiere
U.S.A., 2002, 89 min.
English/Yiddish/Russian w/subtitles
Yale Strom, Director

Twenty years before the birth of the modern state of Israel, Stalin decided to establish the Jewish Autonomous Region of Birobidzhan in the Soviet Union's Far East. Heeding the slogan "To a Jewish land!", Jews from the USSR, as well as Canada, the United States, Poland, France and Argentina, among others, made the arduous trek, by boat and train, to south-eastern Siberia. What compelled them? And what was life like for these extraordinary pioneers? Accompanied by an affable but obviously anti-Semitic guide, musician and filmmaker Yale Strom takes a seven-day trip, via the Trans-Siberian Railroad, to find out. What results is a fascinating journey to "the first Jewish state."

L'CHAYIM COMRADE STALIN



Special Guest:
Yale Strom (director)

8:45

YELLOW ASPHALT: A TRILOGY OF DESERT STORIES

Israel, 2002 87 min.
Hebrew w/subtitles
Danny Verete, Director



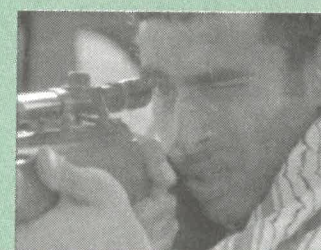
Three dramatic encounters illustrate how Western culture is pushing its way into the desert, shaking the traditions of a land that was once the sole domain of the Bedouin tribes. The tragic death of a Bedouin boy on the asphalt road; the impossible marriage between Tamam, a German woman, and her Bedouin husband; and the forbidden love affair of Suida and Shmuel, her Israeli employer. Shot entirely in the Judean desert.

CO-SPONSORED BY
NORTHWEST JEWISH
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT



Special Guest:
A conversation with Janice
Plotkin (outgoing Executive
Director, San Francisco Jewish
Film Festival)

YELLOW ASPHALT



12TH WED

2:00

MOTEL THE OPERATOR

U.S.A., 1939, 88 min.
Yiddish with English subtitles
Joseph Seiden, Director

A brand-new restoration of this classic melodrama captures the sentimental, emotional characters, the convoluted plots, and the fantastic coincidences which dominated the Second Avenue Yiddish theaters. Motl, a poor laborer, loving husband and new

father, leads cloakmakers in a strike for better working conditions. When he is severely injured by strikebreakers, his wife, Esther, and infant son are left destitute. Featuring a number of richly-rendered, beautiful Yiddish songs.

SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST:
YALE STROM (AUTHOR OF "THE BOOK OF KLEZMER," AND FIDDLER EXTRAORDINAIRE)



MOTEL THE OPERATOR

5:00

SHANGHAI GHETTO

Seattle Premiere
U.S.A., 2002, 97 min.
English
Dana Janklowicz-Mann and Amir Mann, Directors

In the late 1930's German Jews were trying to escape Nazi persecution, but country after country closed its doors to them. Then, suddenly, a beacon of hope appeared a continent and a world away—in, of all places, Japanese-controlled Shanghai, to which one could book passage from an Italian port without needing a visa. Jewish refugees journeyed to the exotic city, arriving penny-less and unprepared for life in the Far East. Befriended by local Jewish and Chinese residents and aided by American Jewish organizations, the refugees struggled to construct a cohesive community in a squalid, impoverished part of town. For many comparatively upscale refugees, this was their first contact with the heart-rending

poverty and exemplary kindness of the Chinese people. The film was shot in modern Shanghai, where most of the Jewish ghetto remains unchanged. A riveting, uplifting, and unforgettable film.



SHANGHAI GHETTO

7:00

ANNA'S SUMMER

Seattle Premiere
Germany/Greece/Spain, 2001 108 min.
English/Spanish/Greek/German with subtitles
Jeanine Meerapfel, Director

A sensual, visually stunning exploration of identity, exile, and forbidden love. Anna, a 50-year-old photojournalist, returns to the picturesque Greek island of her childhood to close a chapter of her life, and in the process unexpectedly begins a new one. Memories, secrets, recipes and ghosts from the past begin to surface: odysseys of exile and deportation, unrequited love,

and the stubborn survival of family ties. As she confronts the multiple stories that form her own life story, Anna recognizes her love for her family home, and realizes that we are lucky indeed if the ghosts that haunt us are friendly ones.

CO-SPONSORED BY
UW JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM



Special Guest:
Dr. Sarah Abrevaya Stein (Asst. Prof., Dept. of History, Jackson School of Intl. Studies, UW)



KEDMA

9:15

KEDMA

Northwest Premiere
Israel/France/Italy 2002, 100 minutes
Hebrew w/subtitles
Amos Gitai, Director

May 1948. One week before the creation of the state of Israel, a small rusted ship with a group of survivors from all over Europe is welcomed by the shooting of British troops trying to forbid them from illegally disembarking, and by the shooting of the Jewish secret army that has come to help them with their first steps on the holy land. This film is the story of the first hours these men and women will spend in Palestine. Director Gitai, propelling the narrative towards an explosive and unexpected climax, poignantly depicts a land fast becoming scarred by the same tragedy and trauma that these survivors had hoped to leave behind.

CO-SPONSORED BY
HUSKIES FOR ISRAEL AND PURSUE THE PEACE

13TH THU

6:30

MY TERRORIST

U.S. Premiere
Israel, 2002 58 min.
English and Hebrew with subtitles
Yulie Cohen Gerstel, Director



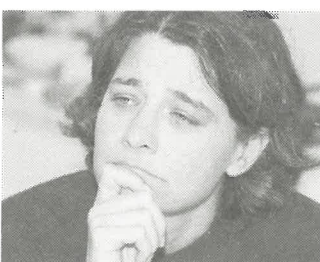
Fahad Mihi, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Yulie Cohen, a sixth-generation Israeli, first met in August 1978, when Mihi pointed a machine gun at the El Al flight attendant in a terrorist attack. Twenty-three years later, in an effort to help break the cycle of violence, Yulie considers writing a letter in support of Mihi's parole, thus thrusting herself into the turbulent world of Middle East politics. Winner of a Special Jury Prize at the Jerusalem International Film Festival "for the filmmaker's courage in striving for reconciliation in the face of violence and in documenting that struggle in an honest and sensitive manner."

MOMENTS ISRAEL 2002

West Coast Premiere
Israel, 2002, 56 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
Various Directors



Seventeen 3-minute films by seventeen Israeli directors. Ranging from documentaries to animation, satire to personal statements, these films are hilarious, heartwarming, and heartbreaking interpretations of present-day reality in Israel. A must see for anyone who cherishes the personality of Israel.



YULIE COHEN GERSTEL

9:00

A TRUMPET IN THE WADI

Northwest Premiere
Israel, 2001, 97 min.
Hebrew/Arabic w/subtitles
Lina and Slava Chaplin, Directors



In an Arab neighborhood in Haifa, love blossoms between a Christian Arab woman, and her upstairs neighbor, a new Jewish immigrant from Russia. But can their love survive? A complex, emotionally satisfying adaptation, *A Trumpet in the Wadi* is a fine example of a new maturity in Israeli cinema.

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THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER SEATTLE



A TRUMPET IN THE WADI



ANNA'S SUMMER



Special Guest:
Yulie Cohen Gerstel (director)

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14TH FRI

1:00

A BRIDGE OF BOOKS

Seattle Premiere
U.S.A., 2002, 13 min.
English
Samuel Ball, Director



The extraordinary National Yiddish Book Center in Massachusetts has been called "the greatest cultural rescue effort in Jewish history." It all began in 1980, when an enterprising 23-year-old named Aaron Lansky rallied together an international network of volunteers and set out to rescue the world's Yiddish books. Follow him and his volunteers into homes where this language was as ordinary as it was cherished.



A BRIDGE OF BOOKS

SHORTS
MATINEE

SEATTLE
PREMIERE

WASHINGTON
PREMIERE

NORTHWEST
PREMIERE

15TH SAT

7:30

AMEN

Seattle Premiere
France, 2002, 130 min.
English
Costa-Gavras, Director



Kurt Gerstein, newly commissioned SS Lieutenant and respected civilian chemist, discovers that the Zyklon B pellets he has developed to disinfect soldiers' drinking water are being used to gas interred Jews by the thousands. Gerstein secretly approaches the Swedish Consulate, the German Protestant community, and finally Vatican representatives in the hopes of exposing this unspeakable crime. The only one who listens is Father Ricardo, a young Jesuit priest with deep family connections at the Vatican. Ricardo promises Gerstein he will alert the Pope in hopes that the pontiff will reveal and denounce the Final Solution to the Christian world... A superbly filmed, wholly engrossing epic by Academy-Award winning director Costa-Gavras.



AMEN



Special Guest:
Prof. Robert Ericksen,
(Dept. of History, PLU; author
of "Theologians Under Hitler")

SEATTLE
PREMIERE

NORTHWEST
PREMIERE

THE SMILE OF ISAAC

Northwest Premiere
France 2002, 52 min.
French w/subtitles
Stephan Rabinovitch, Director



Stephan Rabinovitch's fun and entertaining documentary takes us from New York to Tel Aviv, in a cheerful look at Jewish humor

and its roots in the humanistic Jewish tradition. With funny stories, archival footage, and clips from feature films, this documentary immerses us in the distinct yet universal flavor of Jewish comedy.



THE SMILE OF ISAAC

ALL I'VE GOT

Washington Premiere
Israel 2002, 68 min.
Hebrew w/subtitles
Keren Margalit, director

A fascinating romance about choosing between two loves. Seventy-two year old Tamara dies and finds herself on a ferry that will take her across the river to the hereafter. On the ferry, she meets Uri, her first love,

who was killed in an auto accident when they were both young. She has a fateful choice: to enter the afterlife with her beloved Uri as her 23-year old self – giving up all her memories of her subsequent life, her husband and children; or to join her husband in the afterlife, with all her memories intact, leaving Uri behind for all eternity.



ALL I'VE GOT

10:00

GIRAFFES

Northwest Premiere
Israel, 2001, 115 min.
English/French/Hebrew w/subtitles
Tzahi Grad, Director



Giraffes ensnares three twentysomething single women – Abigail, a reporter; Dafna, an actress; and Efrat, an aspiring artist – in a delightfully entertaining puzzle of intertwined fates and plot twists. The film opens in a citrus grove with a young woman falling from an abandoned building. Flash back to two and a half years earlier, when Abigail, by mistake, climbs into the car that comes to pick up Dafna for a day of shooting. Dafna, in turn, climbs into the car of Efrat's blind date, Avner. Certain she's been stood up, Efrat wanders the city streets alone. These chance happenings prompt a series of unexpected events that culminate on the rooftop of that abandoned building. Featuring three of



GIRAFFES

Israel's most talented young actresses: Meital Dohan, Liat Glick, and Tinkerbelle.

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SECULAR JEWISH CIRCLE OF PUGET SOUND

16TH SUN

BAGEL AND FILM
BRUNCH

WASHINGTON
PREMIERE

NORTHWEST
PREMIERE

U.S. PREMIERE

10:00

SHTICK, SCHMALTZ, AND SHTEREOTYPES

U.S. Premiere
U.S.A., 2002, 120 min.
Murray Glass, curator



Come "trip the lights sarcastic" and join us for a program of Jewish shticks and schmaltz: short comic classics that are among the best of the best of Max Davidson, Eddie Cantor, Burns and Allen, and Jack Benny, to name just a few. This program also includes some shtereotypes, too: short animated films that present and promote negative stereotypes of Jews and other immigrant groups. Film distributor Murray Glass, who has toured the country with these films, will introduce the program.



Special Guest:
Murray Glass
(film curator and historian)



SHTICK, SCHMALTZ, AND SHTEREOTYPES

1:00

THE COLLECTOR OF BEDFORD STREET

Washington Premiere
U.S.A., 2002, 37 min.
English
Alice Elliot, Director



Larry Selman, the filmmaker's 59-year old neighbor in Greenwich Village, has raised thousands of dollars for local charities, while he himself lives at the poverty level. But he has

an IQ of 61, and his caregiver uncle is nearing death. To ensure Larry's future in the neighborhood, his neighbors rally to create a community trust fund for him, the first group to do so through the UJA-Federation. Wry and heartwarming, this film is sure to be an audience favorite.

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THE COLLECTOR OF BEDFORD STREET

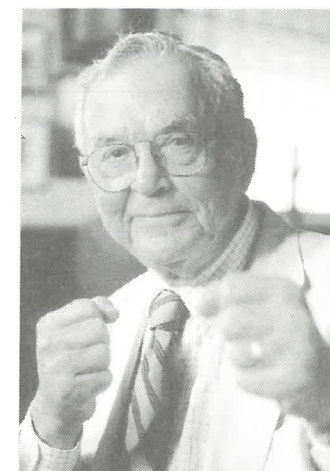


SHALOM Y'ALL

Northwest Premiere
U.S.A., 2002, 60 min.
English
Brian Bain, Director



Traveling in a big old Cadillac like the kind his one-hundred-year-old grandfather drove as a hat and tie salesman on the same roads, filmmaker Brian Bain takes a 4,200-mile road trip in search of his cultural roots. His delightful film chronicles the Jewish people and places encountered along the way – a small-town store owner; an African American-Jewish police chief; the town that once claimed to be the "Catskills of the South;" a Golden Gloves boxer; barbecued matzo balls. With humor and affection, the film weaves the story of a thriving culture blending the Old World with the New South.



SHALOM Y'ALL

16TH SUN

NORTHWEST
PREMIERE

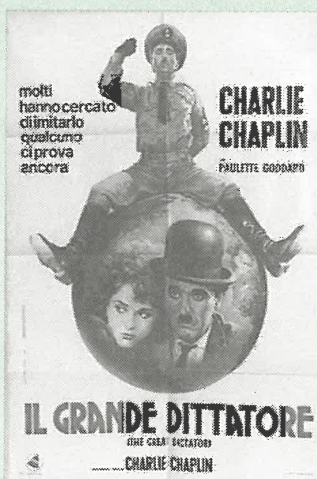
3:00

THE TRAMP AND THE DICTATOR

Great Britain/Germany, 2002, 54 min
English
Kevin Brownlow & Michael Kloft, Directors.



Charlie Chaplin and Adolf Hitler were born within a week of each other in April 1889. The Nazis mistakenly believed Chaplin to be Jewish. In a 1934 anti-Semitic propaganda leaflet Chaplin is described as a "disgusting Jewish acrobat." Chaplin knew about the pamphlet and it is believed that it prompted him to make *The Great Dictator*, a very daring film that laughed in the face of the totalitarian regimes and the hardship they inflicted. This documentary features black-and-white archive footage of Hitler's rallies and excerpts from *The Great Dictator*, interspersed with interviews with film critics, historians, and a contemporary of Hitler. However, the most remarkable footage is some color



THE TRAMP AND THE DICTATOR

molti hanno cercato di imitare qualcuno ci prova ancora

HITLER'S HAT

Northwest Premiere
U.S.A., 2003, 50 min
English
Jeff Krulik, Director



On April 30, 1945, 19-year old Jewish-American GI Richard Marowitz stormed Adolph Hitler's apartment in Munich searching for military intelligence. All he found was a black top hat... Director Jeff Krulik (*Obsessed With Jews*) follows Marowitz and his hat to a reunion of his rainbow division in this unconventional documentary that mixes warmth and humor against the horrors of war and genocide. A funny and remarkably moving film.



Special Guests:
Bill Keithan & Dee Eberhart
(42nd Rainbow Division 222nd
I&R Platoon)



HITLER'S HAT

6:30 PM

16TH ANNUAL
MUSIC

CLOSING
NIGHT
SING-ALONG

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF
U.S.A. 1971, 178 min
English
Norman Jewison, Director



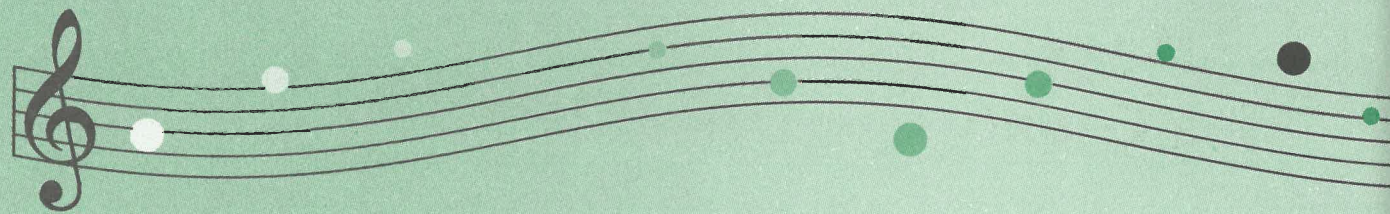
"Without our tradition, our lives would be as shaky as a fiddler on the roof!" One of the last great Hollywood musicals, *Fiddler on the Roof* is as vital and electrifying now as it was when it first opened in 1971. Based on the stories of Sholem Aleichem, this rousing classic revolves around the ever-resourceful Tevye, a dairyman in

Anatevka, a small Jewish village in pre-revolutionary Russia. Juggling the demands of his wife, his daughters, his village, and his god, Tevye attempts to preserve his family's traditions in the face of a changing world. Enhanced by stunning cinematography, a comedic, soulful performance by Topol,

hauntingly beautiful strains from Isaac Stern's violin, and wonderful songs that move the story from light-hearted to heart wrenching, *Fiddler on the Roof* captures the universal struggle to preserve faith, family, and friendship.

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JEWISH TRANSCRIPT

Get your tickets now for what promises to be an unforgettable night—our 2nd annual *Fiddler on the Roof* sing-along!



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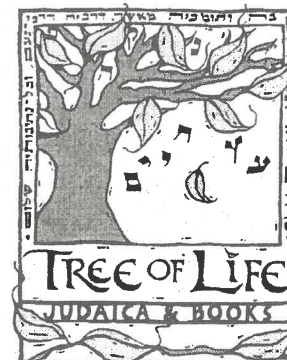


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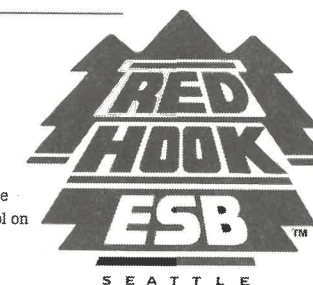
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DAY OF SHOW

SAME DAY TICKETS CAN ONLY BE PURCHASED IN
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WILL OPEN 1 HOUR PRIOR TO SCREENINGS

— See page 13 for full schedule —

INFORMATION

SCREENINGS

All screenings begin promptly at the announced time.
All programs are subject to change. Films are not rated and
may contain graphic language or adult situations. Please see
our schedule and legend on page 13 for warnings.

SJFF 2003 TICKET PRICES

Seating is limited! Advance purchase is recommended.

\$8.00 General Admission

\$7.00 Discounted Ticket (Seniors, AJC Members, Wiggly World
Members, Cinema Seattle Members, Children under 13)

SPECIAL EVENT TICKETS (sorry no discounts)

\$25.00 Opening Night Tickets

\$12.00 Bagel and Film Brunch

\$10.00 Fiddler on the Roof Sing-Along

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PASS HOLDER POLICIES

(Includes Sponsors, Volunteers, Full, and Half Pass holders)

1. Passes are non-transferable. Please help us sell tickets by
encouraging friends and family to purchase their own tickets.
2. Passholders must reserve space for the Opening Night
Gala and the Closing Night Sing-along. Please call 622.6315 x 8
to reserve your space(s).
3. Passholder seating reserved until 15 minutes prior to start
of screening. Please come early to guarantee seating!
4. Volunteer passes are not good for opening or closing night.

We rely on your compliance with these guidelines!

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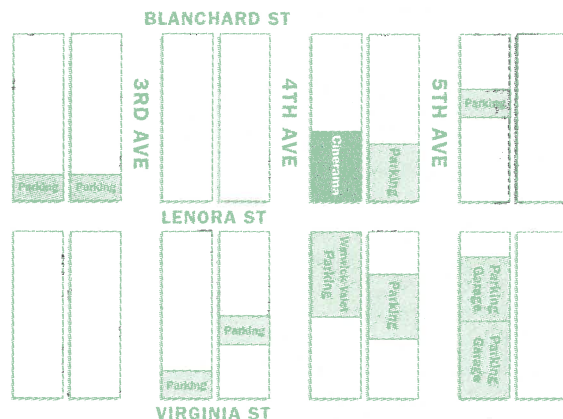
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THEATRE PARKING INFORMATION

This map provides the locations of parking options within walking
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unable to provide parking validation for surrounding lots.

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