



SEATTLE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2026 LINEUP RETURNING MARCH 14 – 29 WITH “ROOTS + REELS”

[2026 SJFF Full Lineup](#) | [2026 SJFF Schedule](#) | [2026 SJFF Media Resources](#)

SEATTLE, Wash. (February 17, 2026) – The Stroum Jewish Community Center announces the full lineup of films, events and guests for the **31st annual Seattle Jewish Film Festival**, running **March 14–29, 2026**.

Long before Seattle became the vibrant city we know today, Jewish pioneers helped lay its cultural and communal foundations, brick by brick and story by story. The Seattle Jewish Film Festival continues that legacy frame by frame and film by film, sharing powerful narratives that reflect Jewish history, identity and imagination while fostering connection and conversation across communities.

Pioneering Jewish culture and cinema in the Pacific Northwest for 31 years, the Seattle Jewish Film Festival continues to build bridges between communities and shine a light on diverse voices that inspire, challenge and unite us.

“This year’s **Roots + Reels** festival explores how rootedness in **family, faith, tradition, culture and community** has the power to sustain us in trying times,” notes Pamela Lavitt, SJCC Arts + Ideas and Festival Director. “The 2026 lineup features many films about mothers and maternal figures who ground community and society—as caregivers, family anchors, institution builders, storytellers, underestimated role models and unsung heroes,” she continues, “from the opener **ONCE UPON MY MOTHER**, and titular **MY UNDERGROUND MOTHER** and **MARATHON MOM** to **IRON LADIES**, **THE FIRST LADY** and **FANTASY LIFE** starring Amanda Peet.”

Featuring more than 25 films, SJFF 2026 launches Saturday, Mar. 14 with an Opening Night screening of **ONCE UPON MY MOTHER** at AMC Pacific Place, a crowd-pleasing, big-hearted French megahit about a Moroccan mother’s fierce love and determination to move mountains for her child, followed by a French ’60s hits DJ and dessert party.

On Sunday, Mar. 15 at AMC Pacific Place, a beloved audience favorite, the Sunday Brunch + Film pairs **WE MET AT GROSSINGER’S**, a nostalgic look at Catskills summer-resort life paired with a Sunday brunch spread. Following the Sunday Brunch, as part of the festival’s annual Sephardic Spotlight, SJFF presents **LEFT LANE STRAIGHT**, a work-in-progress screening and deeply personal story about Greek Jews and the filmmaker’s family lore, followed by a conversation and reception with the filmmakers and local contributors including Warren Etheredge (writer and SJFF shorts program curator) and UW Sephardic Studies Chair, Prof. Devin Naar (a film interviewee).

The Festival closes with **31 CANDLES**, a hilarious and heartfelt New York City rom-com, written, directed and starring Jonah Feingold. The film features a spate of comedic cameos about finding Jewish joy and coming-of-

age (bar mitzvah) at any age. After the film, toast the festival's conclusion with champagne and enjoy local, homemade cheesecake.

Alongside screenings, the festival features a range of special events—from live music and festive receptions to filmmaker conversations—bringing people together to share stories both personal and universal. The Roots + Reels lineup offers festivalgoers a rich blend of narrative features, documentaries and cultural moments on the big screen.

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About the Seattle Jewish Film Festival

Founded in 1995, the Seattle Jewish Film Festival (SJFF) is one of the largest and longest-running film festivals in the Pacific Northwest and one of the largest Jewish film festivals in the country. A cornerstone program of the Stroum Jewish Community Center (SJCC) and its Arts + Ideas season, SJFF brings people together from across Washington—and virtually around the globe—to celebrate and showcase the vibrancy and diversity of global Jewish life through cinema to build connections, illuminate perspectives, increase understanding and offer experiences that amplify profound Jewish experiences for everyone. Tickets and more information at SeattleJFF.org. Follow SJFF on Facebook @[SeattleJFF](https://www.facebook.com/SeattleJFF) and Instagram @[sjcc.arts](https://www.instagram.com/sjcc.arts). View the full SJCC Arts + Ideas year-round season at sjcc.org/arts

About SJCC

Founded in 1949, the Stroum Jewish Community Center (SJCC) strives to be the Puget Sound's most open and welcoming community-centered Jewish organization, offering experiences that amplify profound Jewish connections for every generation. Located on Mercer Island, the J offers a variety of programs and activities for everyone from newborns to seniors. The J is home to an Early Childhood School, summer camp and year-round kids programs, the largest Fitness Center on Mercer Island, an indoor pool, arts and community events, and more. More information at sjcc.org. Follow SJCC on Facebook @[SJCCSeattle](https://www.facebook.com/SJCCSeattle) and Instagram @[stroumjcc](https://www.instagram.com/stroumjcc).

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