The Jewish Community Center of Greater Rochester presents







July 17-24, 2005



A Note from the Board

Shalom!

The JCC Rochester Jewish Film Festival was established just five years ago with a vision to present the best Jewish themed contemporary films from around the world at its annual summer Festival. Our mission is – through film – to promote awareness, appreciation and pride in the diversity of the Jewish people; to strengthen community consciousness of Jewish identity, history and culture; to provide a forum for community gatherings that allow dynamic and provocative dialogue; and to create an international showcase for filmmakers whose work explores Jewish themes. No small order. And yet here we are Turning 5 in '05!

We take great pride in our accomplishments thus far. We have supporters who have been with us since day one; All Festival Pass holders and general audience members who return year after year; and volunteers who give tirelessly because they believe in the Festival. We have had wonderful good fortune, becoming, in just a few short years, a major film festival in the Image City. Hundreds of people are responsible for our success. We are deeply thankful.

Of course we must not forget the thousands of gifted professionals who make filmmaking their life's work. Our Festival has screened more than 100 films over the years: features, documentaries, and short films, each fulfilling our mission and vision. This year's film lineup is the strongest yet. We have films from Argentina, Belgium, England, France, Germany, Israel, and the U.S.; award-winning feature films by internationally acclaimed



Elliot Fix, Barbara Aurnou, Monica Ailler; Andrea Miller, Marcía Stern, Síd Rosenzweig, Rona Litt, Claudette Entenberg, Aoward Cohen, Aelene Newman, Peggy Fagan; Not pictured; Ieff Hirschberg, Carl Lasky, Sahar Oz, Jack Ross.

directors; and extraordinarily powerful documentaries, such as our Opening Night film, *Protocols of Zion*, the suspenseful *No. 17*, and the controversial *The Get*, by Rochester's own Jack Ross.

Again, we thank you for your ongoing support. Keep coming to the Festival, keep watching these important films, and keep believing in the Arts. We are here to stay. May you go from strength to strength.

The 2005 Rochester Jewish Film Festival Board

A special thank you to Mr. Carl Lasky, Rochester Jewish Film Festival Founder and Board Member.

A Note from our Visionary Sponsor

Dear Friends:

It is hard to believe that this year celebrates the fifth anniversary of the Rochester Jewish Film Festival. From our humble beginnings our Film Festival has grown into one of Rochester's major Jewish events.

The films this year are noteworthy, diverse, and powerful. We hope you will take full advantage of all of the offerings and bring along a friend. We are proud of the growth our Festival has experienced. We thank you for making it a Rochester success.

With warm heartfelt thanks, (Mit a hartzaken dank!)

Larry and Dennis Kessler



Dennis Xessler and Larry Xessler, Owners Friendly's Restaurants



Sponsor Recognition

The Rochester Jewish Film Festival gratefully thanks its supporters.



A special thank you goes to our film introducers, post-film discussion leaders, and all of the volunteers who give of their time, talent and energy!

Rochester Jewish Film Festival trailer.

WHAM

Rochester Jewish Film Festival

2005 THEMES

Behind Enemy Lines (7/18) Rosenstrasse (7/18) Heir to an Execution (7/19) No. 17 (7/20) Watermarks (7/24)

COURAGE UNDER FIRE

"If not me, then 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 and subjects in these films discover that times of crisis offer the opportunity to learn from and act on the best that is within us.

Bar Mitzvah Boy (7/17) Wondrous Oblivion (7/19) Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi (7/20) Turn Left at the End of the World (7/24)

GROWING UP

These films tell a tale of growth, wisdom, insight, and follow characters as they develop spiritually, ethically, and morally, These are films we encourage you to share with your family. Like a bar and bat mitzvah, we invite you to celebrate these "coming of age" stories. (These films are appropriate for 13 years of age and older.)

Bar Mitzvah Boy (7/17) Vaudevillians on Film (7/20) Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi (7/20) Le Grand Rôle (7/21) Lost Embrace (7/23)

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 listed here incorporate and celebrate the ability of humor to keep Jews afloat on rough seas and grounded in the joys of Jewish culture.

Behind Enemy Lines (7/18) No. 17 (7/20) Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi (7/20) Turn Left at the End of the World (7/24)

ISRAEL: THIS LAND IS OUR 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 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 extraordinary films.

Protocols of Zion (7/17) Behind Enemy Lines (7/18) Rosenstrasse (7/18) The Get (7/2)

CAN WE TALK?

For many of our films, we have invited directors, experts, and first hand witnesses to deepen understanding, provide focus and illuminate complexities. The following films will include post-film discussions. (Some post-film discussion guests were not secured at press time and are TBA at this time.)

For further discussion, we encourage you and your fellow film-goers to visit a local Friendly's – enjoy an ice cream (kosher) and talk film!

(Concept shared by The Seattle Jewish Film Festival.)

Jewish	Tewish Film Festival	Š	Schedule at a Glance -	ta Glan	Su	ly 2005
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3	4	Ŀĵ	9	Г	œ	6
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 4 pm Bar Mitzvah Boy 7 pm Protocols of Zion Opening Night Party	18 6:30 pm <i>Behind Enemy</i> Lines 8:30 pm <i>Rosenstrasse</i>	19 ISRAEL NIGHT 6:30 pm No. 17 9 pm Bonjour Monsier Shlomi	20 2 pm 2 pm Vaudevillians on Film (Dryden) 6:30 pm <i>Heir to An Execution</i> 9 pm <i>Wondrous Oblivion</i>	21 6:30 pm Le Grand Rôle 9 pm Rashevski's Tango	22	23 7:30 pm Lost Embrace (Dryden) 10 pm Lost Embrace (Dryden)
24 4 pm The Get 6:30 pm Watermarks	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:30 pm Turn Left at the End of the World Closing Night Celebration				All films are screened at the Little Theatre unless otherwise noted.	Little Theatre unless otherwise	otherwise noted.





Opening Day Sunday, July 17 – 4 pm, The Little Theatre #1

Bar Mitzvah Boy

(Director: Michael Tuchner, United Kingdom, 1976, 75 min., BetaSP, English, Feature)

Bar Mitzvah Boy is a charming and very funny BBC classic that well deserves its place in the British Film Institute pantheon of all-time top 100 television productions. Set in a working-class neighborhood in 1970s England, this bittersweet comedy about a British boy's upcoming Bar Mitzvah features a strong sense of time and place, stellar acting, and, in the words of the BFI, "genius writing." A "must see" for any family who has celebrated and/or will celebrate a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Free admission for all 2004/2005 Bar and Bat Mitzvah boys and girls (Must be accompanied by an adult). Friendly's Ice Cream for all after the film!



Sunday, July 17 – 7 pm, The Little Theatre #1 **Protocols of Zion**

(Director: Mark Levin, USA, 2005, 93 min., 35 mm, English, Documentary)

Fresh from its premiere screening at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, Director Marc Levin's Protocols of Zion was inspired by an encounter he had not long after the September 11 terrorist attacks. His taxi driver made the claim that the Jews had been warned not to go to work at the World Trade Center on that day, referring to "The *Protocols of the Elders of Zion,"* a forgery created more than 100 years ago purporting to be the Jews' master plan to rule the world. The experience led Levin to embark on an odyssey in which he delves into the rise of religious intolerance and ethnic bigotry waged in the name of God.

Post-film discussion

Film followed by Opening Night Friendly's Ice Cream Street Party

Sponsored by Friendly's



Monday, July 18 – 6:30 pm, The Little Theatre #1

Behind Enemy Lines

(Director: Dov Gil-Har, Israel, 2004, 64 min., Video, English/Hebrew/ Arabic w/subtitles, Documentary)

Adnan Joulani, a Palestinian journalist, and Benny Herness, an Israeli police officer, met on a joint peace mission to Japan just as the second Intifada erupted in Israel. Nearly four years later, they meet again and decide to take a risky journey through the landscape of the conflict including a Jenin refugee camp, the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, and the Temple Mount. Even as the men promote their versions of the truth, they begin to see the conflict through each other's eyes. A rare behind-the-scene look at Israel.

Post-film discussion

Preceded by **Kosher Cop**

(Director: Leah Wolchock, USA, 2003, 3 min, Video, English, Short) Kosher Cop portrays the hectic life of a disabled Berkeley Rabbi who kashers restaurants.



Monday, July 18 – 8:30 pm, The Little Theatre #1

Rosenstrasse

(Director: Margarethe von Trotta, Germany, 2003, 136 min., 35 mm, English/German w/English subtitles, Feature) An anonymous street in the heart of Berlin, Rosenstrasse seems an unlikely location for one of the most amazing acts of resistance of World War II; it was here that a small group of women took on Hitler's SS and won. In 1943 Lena was a beautiful, talented pianist disowned by her aristocratic father because she married a Jew. When her husband is rounded-up by the Nazis, she fights for his life. Director, respected German filmmaker, Margarethe von Trotta intertwines the stories of two women whose lives were forever changed, then and now. Rosenstrasse, based on a true story, is a plea for tolerance and solidarity as well as a compassionate love story. "A splendid film celebrating the strength and resilience of women." – LA Times **Post-film discussion**

Ísrael Might

In attendance tonight are teens from Israel and Rochester participating in Partnership 2000: Journey for Identity – A Teen Tour of Israel, Poland and the US.

Tuesday, July 19 – 6:30 pm, The Little Theatre #1

No. 17

(Director: David Ofek and Ron Rotem, Israel, 2003, 76 min, Video, Hebrew w/subtitles, Documentary)

The suicide bombing of a bus on its way to Tiberius from Tel Aviv in June 2002 claimed seventeen victims, but only sixteen were identified. Victim No. 17 was buried a few weeks later, no one having come forward to claim him missing. Director David Ofek and cinematographer and co-director Ron Rotem conduct their own investigation to discover the identity of No. 17. Full of twists and surprises, theirs is a gripping, suspenseful journey that reveals the world and the people behind the headlines. This film won the Special Jury Award at Toronto's 2004 *Hot Docs International Film Festival*; Best Documentary at Tel Aviv's *DocAviv* 2003; and the 2003 Israeli Academy Award for Best Documentary.



Tuesday, July 19 – 9 pm, The Little Theatre #1 Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi

(Director: Shemi Zarhin, Israel, 2003, 94 min., Video, Hebrew w/ English subtitles, Feature)

Nominated for Best Film in 2003 by the Israeli Film Academy, *Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi* is a Festival favorite around the world. Shlomi takes care of everyone – his grandfather, his older brother, his mother, his father and his older sister's twins. And most of all, Shlomi makes everyone happy by cooking them their favorite dishes. But no one in the family really sees Shlomi until one day a math test reveals exceptional gifts. With the help of his teacher and Rona, the gardener with whom he falls in love, Shlomi discovers himself. *Brief nudity, adult language and themes*.

Israel Night sponsored by Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester





Wednesday, July 20 – 2 pm, The Dryden Theatre at George Eastman House Vaudevillians on Film

(Program running time approx 80 min.)

This laugh-a-minute selection of short films focuses on great Jewish comedians of the Vaudeville era. The program includes George Burns and Gracie Allen in *Lambchops* (1929); the comedy and bizarre dancing of Shaw and Lee in *The Beau Brummels* (1928); Gregory Ratoff as the Yiddish actor and famed mangler of English in *Gregory Ratoff* (1929); Joe Weber and Lew Fields in *The Poolroom* (1925), *Sol Violinsky* (1927), and *The Eccentric Entertainer* (1929); and the great Max Davidson stars in the silent gem, *Don't Tell Everything*, with live piano by Philip Carli.



Wednesday, July 20 – 6:30 pm, The Little Theatre #1 Heir to an Execution

(Director: Ivy Meeropol, USA, 2003, 99 min., BetaSP, English, Documentary)

A deeply personal documentary film by the granddaughter of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg examines how the arrest and execution of her grandparents has affected her extended family relationships. Filmmaker Ivy Meeropol investigates the complex legacy she has inherited – from Ethel's brother, who fabricated his testimony to implicate his sister, to the Rosenberg children whose parents chose death over betraying their principles and insisted that they had not committed the crimes for which they had been condemned. This film was nominated for the 2004 Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize.

Sponsored by Nixon Peabody LLP



Wednesday, July 20 – 9 pm, The Little Theatre #1 Wondrous Oblivion

(Director: Paul Morrison, United Kingdom, 2002, 106 min., 35 mm, English, Feature)

Eleven-year-old David Wiseman, the son of Polish-Jewish parents in a working-class neighborhood in South London in the 1960's, is mad for cricket and wondrously oblivious to his lack of athletic prowess. When a Jamaican family moves in next door both David and his family's lives change. Formidable actor Delroy Lindo (*Mo' Better Blues* and *The Cider House Rules*) shines as Dennis, the family's father. Wondrous Oblivion starts with cricket and unfolds into a gentle, comic, coming-of-age story – a portrait of British prejudice, and finally, a case for tolerance and standing up for what's right. This film won the Audience Award at the 2004 Boston Jewish Film Festival.

Sponsored by Pace Window and Door



Thursday, July 21 – 6:30 pm, The Little Theatre #1

Le Grand Rôle

(Director: Steve Suissa, France, 2003, 89 min, 35 mm, French w/ subtitles, Feature)

Laughter and tears vie for top billing in this lovely second feature by French director Steve Suissa (*Taking Wing*). For years, friends and actors Maurice, Sami, Simon, Elie, and Edouard have been waiting for their big break. The future looks bright when famous American director Rudolph Grichenberg (*Peter Coyote*) offers Maurice the part of Shylock in his Yiddish screen adaptation of *The Merchant of Venice*. His fortunes reverse quickly when Maurice receives news about his beloved wife Perla. Both Stéphane Freiss as Maurice and the beautiful Bérénice Bejo as Perla give touching, memorable performances. This film was nominated for the Paris Film Festival Grand Prix Award 2004.



Thursday, July 21 – 9 pm, The Little Theatre #1 Rashevski's Tango

(Director: Sam Garbarski, Belgium/France/Luxembourg, 2003, 97 min., 35 mm, French w/subtitles, Feature)

Family matriarch Rosa Rashevski believed that a tango was as good as chicken soup and better than organized religion. Her death at age 81 sets off identity crises and soul searching among three generations of Rashevskis. Like many modern Jewish families, the Rashevskis are a mélange: Shoah survivors; Reform, Orthodox, and nonobservant Jews; a Gentile daughter-in-law; and a grandson who served in the Israeli Defense Force, currently in love with a Muslim Arab. *The Rashevski's Tango* is a sophisticated, witty, and affectionate exploration of modern European Jewish identity.



Saturday, July 23 – 7:30 pm & 10 pm, The Dryden Theatre at George Eastman House

Lost Embrace

(Director: Daniel Burn, Argentina, 2004, 99 min., 35 mm, Spanish w/ English subtitles, Feature)

This is Ariel's world: a small shopping mall in downtown Buenos Aires where Italian shopkeepers shout all day, Koreans sell Feng Shui, and his mother sells bras. Ariel wants to start a new life in Europe, and struggles with why his father never returned after leaving home to fight in the Yom Kippur War. Writer/Director Daniel Burman conjures a charming world of engaging characters who pursue their humble dreams. Burman is in the vanguard of new filmmaking talent emerging from Latin America. This film won the prestigious 2004 Berlin International Film Festival Silver Bear (Best Film) Prize.



Sunday, July 24 – 4 pm, The Little Theatre #1

The Get

(Director: Jack Ross, USA, 2005, 46 min., DVD, English, Documentary) Making its world premiere, this shocking documentary illuminates the process of obtaining a *Get*, the means by which a marriage is terminated in Jewish law. By Jewish law a woman can divorce her husband only when he gives his consent. Should a husband refuse, the woman is caught in a demoralizing legal labyrinth. Filmmaker Jack Ross follows three women as they fight to get their lives back. **Post-film discussion with filmmaker Jack Ross, and director of** *The Organization for the Resolution of Agunot,* **Joshua Ross.**

Preceded by Backseat Bingo

(*Director: Liz Blazer, USA, 2004, 6min, 35mm, English, Animation Short*) Backseat Bingo is a funny and poignant animated documentary about senior citizens and romance.



Sunday, July 24 – 6:30 pm, The Little Theatre #1

Watermarks

(Director: Yaron Zilberman, Israel, 2004, 90 min., 35 mm, English/ Hebrew/German w/subtitles, Documentary)

Watermarks tell the story of seven remarkable Jewish women athletes – the champion Austrian national swim team and members of the legendary Jewish sports club, *Hakoah* ("the strength" in Hebrew). In 1938, the Nazis shut down the club forcing the women to flee. Sixty-five years later, Director Yaron Zilberman interviews these smart, witty and bracingly forthright women about some of the most difficult moments of their lives. The film builds toward a reunion in Vienna for a swim in the pool where they once trained. This film was nominated for Best Documentary by the Israeli Film Academy 2004.



Sunday, July 24 – 8:30 pm, The Little Theatre #1 Turn Left at the End of the World

(Director: Avi Nesher, Israel/France, 2004, 110 min., 35 mm English/ French/Hebrew w/English subtitles, Feature)

Charming, sexy, and comical, *Turn Left at the End of the World* takes us back to 1969, when two Jewish immigrant families – one Indian, the other Moroccan – become unlikely neighbors in the middle of the Israeli desert. The families become embroiled in a culture war that touches on everything from laundry soap to cricket. Meanwhile, each family's teenage daughter negotiates the landscape of the sexual revolution – as do older family members. In the process, the girls break through their families' resentments to forge a bond of friendship.

Nudity, adult themes, sexual content.

Sponsored by Hatch Leonard Naples Film followed by Wine & Chocolate Celebration presented by Canandaigua Wine: Manischewitz & Brickstone Cellars

2005 Rochester Jewish Film Festival

TICKET INFORMATION TICKET PRICES

JCC Member General Admission Ticket Non-Member General Admission Ticket Opening and Closing Nights (Food included) Students, Seniors (65+) and Groups of 20 or more

\$8
\$10
\$12 (\$15 for non-members)
\$1 discount (Sorry, no discounts for Opening or Closing Nights)

\$99

All Festival Pass

ADVANCE PURCHASE TICKET REFUNDS

Refunds are available for canceled or rescheduled programs. Due to circumstances beyond our control, films may be canceled or rescheduled without prior notice.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SEATING

Seating is general admission for all except "All Festival Pass" holders who have reserve seating until 15 minutes prior to start time of screening.

PASS HOLDER POLICY

All Festival Passes allow access to all films. Passholder seating is reserved until 15 minutes prior to start of screening. RJFF cannot guarantee seating for late arrivals. <u>All Festival Passes are non-transferable</u>. Please help us sell tickets by encouraging friends and family to purchase their own tickets.

PARKING

Parking is available in the main parking lot of The Little Theatre and The Dryden Theatre, in area parking lots or garages, and along East Avenue and side streets. Please observe parking laws.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Little Theatre and Dryden Theatre are accessible to those with handicapping conditions.

QUESTIONS

For additional information please call 585-461-2000, ext. 235 or visit www.rjff.org.

Sponsorship Opportunities and Benefits Please consider becoming a Rochester Jewish Film Festival Sponsor!

Benefit	Recognition on Festival Brochure and Event Programs	All Festival Passes	Festival T-shirts	Recogni-	Recognition in JCC Center News	•	on Festival	Promotional	
Visionary \$10,000 +	•	4	4	•	•	•	•	•	•
Executive Producer \$5,000 - \$9,999	•	2	4	•	•	•	•	•	
Producer \$2,500 - \$4,999	•	2	2	•	•	•	•		
Director \$1,000 - \$2,499	•	2	2	•	•	•			
Writer \$500 - \$999	•	2	2	•	•				
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Extra \$125	•	1							

Ticket Order Form:

By Mail: JCC Rochester Jewish Film Festival 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618 By FAX: 585-461-0805 Charge By Phone: 585-461-2000, ext. 235

RJFF encourages advance purchase of tickets.

RJFF encourages advance pu						l		
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I'D LIKE TO PURCHASE TICKETS:								
	DATE	TIME	JCC Mbr	NON MBR	QNTY	SUBTOTAL		
Bar Mitzvah Boy	7/17	4:00pm	\$8	\$10				
Protocols of Zion	7/17	7:00pm	\$12	\$15				
Behind Enemy Lines	7/18	6:30pm	\$8	\$10				
Rosenstrasse	7/18	8:30pm	\$8	\$10				
No. 17	7/19	6:30pm	\$8	\$10				
Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi	7/19	9:00pm	\$8	\$10				
Vaudevillians on Film	7/20	2:00pm	\$8	\$10				
(At Dryden Theatre)								
Heir to an Execution	7/20	6:30pm	\$8	\$10				
Wondrous Oblivion	7/20	9:00pm	\$8	\$10				
Le Grand Role	7/21	6:30pm	\$8	\$10				
Rashevski's Tango	7/21	9:00pm	\$8	\$10				
Lost Embrace	7/23	7:30pm	\$8	\$10				
(At Dryden Theatre)								
Lost Embrace	7/23	10:00pm	\$8	\$10				
(At Dryden Theatre)								
The Get	7/24	4:00pm	\$8	\$10				
Watermarks	7/24	<u>6:30pm</u>	\$8	\$10				
Turn Left at the End of the World	7/24	8:30pm	\$12	\$15				
TOTAL DUE:								
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