

ewish Community Center of Greater Roche



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WELCOME to the 6th Annual Rochester Jewish Film Festival

Have you made your travel plans for this summer? We have a great deal for you! Let the 2006 Rochester Jewish Film Festival fulfill your need for adventure. Please join us, July 16-23, for an entertaining and special journey.

FESTIVAL DIRECTORWhere will we go? Through the magic of giftedAndrea Millerfilmmakers, we will travel to Israel, England,
France, Germany, Greece, Africa, NYC and



beyond. We will even travel through time - through β ruce and Helene Newman, Chairs documentary film footage, through the voices and memories of our films' stars and subjects, and through recreations of our Jewish past.

FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL CHAIRS

Helene Newman

Bruce Newman

How will we get there? All tours will begin at the Little Theatre and the Dryden Theater at George Eastman House. Simply check the schedule in this brochure. Together, via the medium of film, we'll explore our rich culture and history, and encounter unforgettable people everywhere we go.

One last travel note... The Rochester Jewish Film Festival has become the largest Jewish cultural event in Rochester! Our loyal and growing audience knows that the Festival offers a great selection of important, inspiring and thought-provoking films, many exclusive screenings, and fun special events. This year we are pleased to bring you even more visiting filmmakers and guests, and lots of surprises!

On behalf of the outstanding RJFF Board and our generous sponsors we invite you to travel along with us. So, mark your calendars, buy your tickets early and we will see you at the movies!

Delene & Bruce

PRESENTED BY



Dear Friends,

Mazel Tov to the Rochester Jewish Film Festival now entering its 6th year stronger than ever. Friendly's is proud to be included in the ever-expanding family of Film Festival supporters. The generosity of these businesses, family foundations, and individuals is a



family foundations, and individuals is a Dennis Kessler and Larry Kessler, tribute to this outstanding event and its importation of the second second

With heartfelt thanks, (*Mit a hartzaken dank!*) Larry and Dennis Kessler



Visit rjff.org

thank you!

The Rochester Jewish Film Festival gratefully acknowledges its supporters:



Lois DeCoste Dr. Ayala Emmett Flower Garden Service Katrina Korpeck Sharon Kovalsky Bell Price Maxine and Dr. Gerald Rosen RSVP paper and gifts – Marcia Gabrilove Ladin Tradition: Fine Judaic and Israeli Gifts

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Jennifer Caleshu and the Little Theatre Staff

Jim Healy and the Dryden Theatre Staff

Boston Jewish Film Festival

Washington DC Jewish Film Festival

Toronto Jewish Film Festival



A special thank you to WHAM-Ch. 13 for their generous assistance in the production of the 2006 Rochester Jewish Film Festival trailer.

Cameras provided by Kodak Motion Picture Film.

To the film

introducers, post-film discussion leaders, special guests, and all of the volunteers who give of their time, it could not happen without you!

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Rochester Jewish Film Festival Board spends countless hours screening and selecting films for the Festival. It is fun, engaging and challenging! One of the popular topics of conversation at our meetings this year was whether or not to include films in the Festival schedule that have already played successfully in theatres and may even be available on DVD. Do we show *Walk* on *Water*? How can we leave out *Live and Become*? After



Andrea Miller

much deliberation, these two films are on our schedule. Each had limited engagements in the Rochester market, and both are important Jewish-themed films.

With some research, I came upon a beautifully written letter in the 2006 Washington DC Jewish Film Festival brochure from their director, Joshua Ford,

addressing this very issue. With his permission, and because I could not have said it better myself, we have re-printed portions of his letter. We thank Josh for his generosity, and for his thoughtful message. I welcome you to share your thoughts on this matter in the 2006 Festival Evaluations available at the Festival this year.

Many thanks to all of you and I look forward to seeing you in July!

udua

Andrea Miller, Director Rochester Jewish Film Festival

A MESSAGE FROM THE WASHINGTON, DC JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL DIRECTOR:

It is has been very encouraging in recent years to see so many Jewish-themed films receive commercial releases and in many instances, like last year's audience-award winner *Walk On Water*, achieve box office success. We're proud that the Washington Jewish Film Festival has been the starting place for many of those films. But I am equally proud of the unique forum we provide for the foreign, independent and documentary films that will only find their audience through our Film Festival.



Josh Ford



Yes, you may eventually be able to see more of these films on DVD or specialty cable channels, but cinema is a communal event where we gather together to watch the larger-than-life images flicker across the screen. We react to the film and to the reactions of our fellow filmgoers. Afterwards we talk to friends and even strangers about what we have just seen, felt and thought. This is an experience that cannot be replicated no matter the clarity of your flat-panel hi-definition television or the digital-quality surround-speakers encircling your sofa. In isolation, film is limited in its impact. Experienced to-

gether it has transformative powers with the potential to shock us out of complacency, skew our view of the normal and challenge our easily-held assumptions.

This is why I love film and why I love this Festival. I've already seen all of the films, but I haven't really seen them until I see them with our Festival audiences and then I invariably see them anew. Joshua Ford, Director

Washington, DC Jewish Film Festival

JEWISH		JEWISHFILMFESTIVAL Schedule at a Glance - July 2006	Schedule	at a Glanc	se – July	2006
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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J	10	<u></u>	12	0 0	14	15
16 3 pm Live and Become 7 pm Matisyahu/A Cantor's Tale Opening Night Concert and Party	17 6:30 pm <i>Ritchie Boys</i> 9 pm <i>The Tribe/</i> <i>Little Jerusalem</i>	18 6:30 pm Sister Rose's Pas- sion and My 100 Children 9 pm Go for Zucker	19 6:30 pm Walk on Water 9 pm What a Wonderful Place	20 2 pm 2 pm Singing Blacksmith 6:30 pm Forgotten Refugees/ Last Greeks on Broome Street 9 pm Fateless	21	22 7 pm Sophie Scholl: The Final Days 10 pm Sophie Scholl: The Final Days
23 4 pm Bar Mitzvah Boy 7 pm	24	25	26	27	28	29
Moshe Safdie: The Power of Architecture Celebration				Festival Venues;	GEORGE CASALINGUSE	Photography and Film
				-		

OPENING DAY



Sunday, July 16 3:00 pm The Little Theatre #1



Sunday, July 16 7:00 pm The Little Theatre #1





Monday, July 17 6:30 pm The Little Theatre #1

LIVE AND BECOME

Director: Radu Mihaileanu; France, Israel; 2004; 143 min.; French, Hebrew, Amharic w/ subtitles; 35mm; Feature

Live and Become is the beautiful epic story of an Ethiopian boy who is airlifted from a Sudanese refugee camp to Israel in 1984 during Operation Moses. Although he thrives as an adoptive son of a loving family, he is plagued by two big secrets: He is neither a Jew nor an orphan, just an African boy who survived. Awards: Best screenplay at the 2006 Cesar Awards; Audience Award at the 2005 Berlin International Film Festival.

In person: Actor Sirak Sasbahat (adult Schlomo)

Sponsored by The Jewish Home of Rochester and The Summit at Brighton

A CANTOR'S TALE

Director: Erik Greenberg; US; 2005; 95 min.; English; BetaSP; Documentary A Cantor's Tale is a joyous, crowd-pleasing documentary which pays loving tribute to the "golden age" of chazzanut, the celebrated art of cantorial music. Brooklyn-born Cantor Jacob "Jackie" Mendelson traces the American origins of Jewish liturgical music back to the vibrant culture of 1950's Brooklyn, when the great cantors of New York had chart-topping records and were idolized like rock stars. This nostalgic journey also includes appearances by renowned cantors and notables such as Harvard Law School's Alan Dershowitz and comedian Jackie Mason.

Preceded by MATISYAHU

Director: David Baugnon; 2005; US; 11 min.; DVD; English A short documentary film about the phenomenally popular Chassidic Reggae singer that tells his story of spiritual and musical ascent.

In person: Director Erik Greenberg

Followed by Friendly's Opening Night Street Party and Concert.

Sponsored by Friendly's

THE RITCHIE BOYS

Director: Christian Bauer; US/Germany/Italy; 2004; 90 min.; English; 35mm; Documentary

Sixty years after WWII, *The Ritchie Boys* uncovers a fascinating, feel-good story of heroism. A semi-finalist in this year's Oscar documentary race, the film profiles a group of men - mostly German Jewish academics - who fled Nazi Germany only to return to Europe as US soldiers. This elite unit used their collective knowledge about Germany to break the morale of the enemy and rid their homeland of Hitler. For the first time, surviving Ritchie veterans share a treasure-trove of wartime stories that are vivid, exciting, terrifying, and sometimes even funny.

Sponsored by Pace Window and Door



Monday, July 17 9:00 pm The Little Theatre #1



LITTLE JERUSALEM

Director: Karin Albou; France; 2005; 94 min.; French w/ subtitles; 35mm; Feature

A bleak Paris suburb known as "Little Jerusalem" because of its large Jewish immigrant population is the setting for this beautifully acted, skillfully balanced debut feature from writer-director Karin Albou. The film focuses on two sisters with very different views of the world. Laura is torn between her closed religious upbringing and her fascination with Western philosophy. Her sister Mathilde follows the letter of religious law. Juxtaposing the most ancient of rituals with modern concerns, the film sharply portrays the ways in which the demands of a tightly knit religious community can be stifling or liberating as a young woman falls in love. The specter of anti-Semitism in contemporary France further intensifies the compounding conflicts. *Warning: nudity, adult content.*

Preceded by THE TRIBE

Director: Tiffany Shlain; US; 2005; 15 min.; English; DVD; Documentary. What can the most successful doll on the planet show us about being Jewish today? Narrated by Peter Coyote, this award-winning film tells the unorthodox, unauthorized history of the Jewish people and the Barbie Doll in about 15 minutes. "...smart, funny..." - New York Times.



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



SISTER ROSE'S PASSION

Director: Oren Jacoby; US; 2004; 39 min.; English; Documentary This Oscar-nominated short chronicles a courageous woman and her lifelong battle against anti-Semitism within the Catholic Church. Sister Rose Thering challenged the Christian doctrine that blamed the Jews for the death of Jesus. Her work had a direct bearing on the historic Vatican II Council that reformed the Church position on Christian-Jewish relations. *Sister Rose's Passion* crafts a compelling story about fighting prejudice and fostering understanding.

AND MY 100 CHILDREN

Director: Amalia Margolin/Oshra Schwartz; Israel; 68 min.; 2003; Hebrew/ Polish w/ subtitles; Beta; Documentary

In 1945, in the wake of WWI, Lena Kuchler discovered dozens of orphaned and abandoned children. She took these children under her wing, created a home for them, and gave them back their childhoods. The film brings together moving testimonies of these lost children, and their memories about a woman who believed in humanity and in life. Winner of the Jerusalem International Film Festival Jewish Experience Award.

Sponsored by Futerman Supporting Foundation: Sara Futerman, Daphne Futerman & Ira Jevotovsky, Eli & Peggy Futerman, Rina & Danny Chessin



Tuesday, July 18 9:00 pm The Little Theatre #1

GO FOR ZUCKER

Director: Dani Levy; Germany; 2005; 95 min.; German w/ subtitles; 35mm; Feature

See the German box office smash, *Go for Zucker*, a film about a comically dysfunctional Jewish family that mixes slapstick humor with a jaundiced eye for sharply drawn social satire, not to mention a disarming dose of political incorrectness. *Go for Zucker* tells the story of an awkward reunion between two estranged brothers – one a hard-living former East German down-on-his-luck celebrity sportscaster and the other, his quasi-Orthodox brother from the West. Said to be the first German-Jewish comedy made in Germany since World War II, Dani Levy's controversial contemporary farce was one of the most talked-about films in Europe last year and the winner of Germany's top film prize. *The New York Times* asserted that *Go for Zucker* was proving to be "an unconventional form of therapy for the strained relations between Jews and gentiles in Germany."

Warning: Adult content, nudity.

ISRAEL NIGHT – WEDNESDAY



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

WALK ON WATER

Director: Eytan Fox; Israel; 2003; 104 min.; Hebrew w/ subtitles; 35mm; Feature

RJFF is proud to present Israeli Academy Award winner, *Walk on Water*. Mossad agent, Eyal, (played brilliantly by Israeli heartthrob Lior Ashkenazi, of *Late Marriage* fame) is on the trail of an aging Nazi war criminal in this engrossing thriller by Eytan Fox (*Yossi & Jagger*). His journey takes him from Jerusalem to Berlin, and leads him into an unlikely friendship with the former Nazi's grandchildren. His view of the world is changed forever. Don't miss the chance to see it on the big screen!

Warning: Adult content, nudity

Sponsored by State of Israel Bonds



Wednesday, July 19 9:00 pm The Little Theatre #1

WHAT A WONDERFUL PLACE

Director: Eyal Halfon; Israel; 2005; 105 min.; Hebrew w/ subtitles; 35mm; Feature

The winner of four Israeli Academy Awards, this ambitious ensemble film speaks eloquently about something common to us all: the need for human contact. In three stories we meet a group of eclectic characters: an ex-cop, a melancholic farmer, and a Filipino caretaker, all of whom arrive at the same point in the desert, for numerous reasons, but with one dramatic resolution. Acclaimed universally for its uniformly magnificent performances and wildly effective storytelling, this film won the Best Feature Film at the Jerusalem International Film Festival.

Warning: Adult content, nudity, strong sexual content.



Thursday, July 20 2:00 pm Dryden Theatre



Thursday, July 20 6:30 pm The Little Theatre #1





Thursday, July 20 9:00 pm The Little Theatre #1

SINGING BLACKSMITH (Yankl Der Schmid)

Director: Edgar G. Ulmer; US; 1938; 105 min.; B&W; Yiddish w/English subtitles; 35mm; Feature

Yiddish is alive and well! Come see Moishe Oysher, the renowned cantor and star of Yiddish radio, in Edgar G. Ulmer's musical version of David Pinski's play *Yankl Der Shmid*. Singing, dancing, and flashing his eyes, Oysher gives his most robust performance as a passionate shtetl blacksmith who must struggle against temptation to become a mensch. Recently rediscovered footage makes this the most complete extant version of Ulmer's lively folk operetta, replete with an example of Yiddish swing.

Presented in part by the new JCC Yiddish Cultural Center. Cookies generously provided by The Jewish Home of Rochester

LAST GREEKS ON BROOME STREET

Director: Ed Askinazi; US; 2005; 28 min.; English; Beta; Documentary A personal exploration of the filmmaker's heritage doubles as a fascinating glimpse into the little known community of Greek Jews, also known as Romaniotes, with 2,000 years of history, traditions, and their own language. The Kehila Kedosha Janina on Broome Street is the only remaining Ramaniote synagogue in the US. Filmmaker Ed Askinazi journeys there to learn more about his past and discovers a passionate community determined not to disappear.

In person: Director Ed Askinazi

AND

FORGOTTEN REFUGEES

Director: Ralph Avi Goldwasser and Michael Grynszpan; USA/Israel; 2005; 47 min.; English w/ subtitles; Beta SP; Documentary

Through personal stories, archival footage and images of exodus and resettlement, and analysis by contemporary scholars, Forgotten Refugees tells the story of how and why the Arab world's Jewish population declined from one million in 1945 to several thousand today. Employing extensive testimony of survivors from Egypt, Yemen, Libya and Iraq, the film recounts the stories of joy and of suffering that nearly a million individuals have carried with them for so long.

Sponsored by Congregation Light of Israel

FATELESS

Director: Lajos Koltai; Hungary; 2005; 140 min.; Hungarian w/ subtitles; 35mm; Feature

Based on the 2002 Nobel Prize winner Imre Kertesz' moving novel, *Fate-less* tells the story of a Hungarian Jewish boy's (Marcell Nagy) experiences in WWII and his attempts to reconcile himself to those experiences after the war. Cinematically, *Fateless* distinguishes itself from other Holocaust films by its disinterest in the shock-value of life in the concentration camps. Instead, it focuses more on the internal struggle to fight for the soul's survival in the midst of horrific circumstances. Using Kertesz's own screenplay, director Lajos Koltai has created a film whose harrowing narrative is punctuated by moments of surprising beauty.

Strong content.

Sponsored by Konar Family Foundation in cooperation with Monroe Community College Holocaust Genocide Studies Project.



Saturday, July 22 7 pm & 10 pm Dryden Theatre

SOPHIE SCHOLL: THE FINAL DAYS

Director: Marc Rothemund; Germany; 2005; 117 min.; German w/ subtitles; 35mm; Feature

RJFF is proud to screen this 2006 Academy Award nominee for "Best Foreign Language Film." In 1943, as Hitler continued to wage war across Europe, a group of Munich college students mounted an underground resistance movement called the "White Rose" dedicated expressly to the downfall of the Third Reich. One of its few female members, Sophie Scholl was captured during a dangerous mission. Unwavering in her convictions and loyalty, her cross-examination by the Gestapo quickly escalated into a searing test of wills. The true story of the last six days of her life, Germany's most famous anti-Nazi heroine is brought to life in this thrilling award-winning drama.

Sponsored by First Niagara

CLOSING DAY



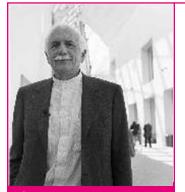
Sunday, July 23 4:00 pm The Little Theatre #1

BAR MITZVAH BOY

Director: Michael Tuchner; UK; 1976; 75 min.; English; Beta SP; Feature

Don't miss this hysterical look at one family's experience. *Bar Mitzvah Boy* is a BBC classic that well deserves its place in the British Film Institute pantheon of all-time top 100 TV 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 ever celebrated and/or will celebrate a *Bar or Bat Mitzvah*.

FREE admission for *2005 Bar Mitzvah Boy* ticket holders AND all 2004/2005/2006 *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah* boys and girls. Must be accompanied by an adult.



Sunday, July 23 7:00 pm The Little Theatre #1

MOSHE SAFDIE: THE POWER OF ARCHTECTURE Director: Donald Winkler; Canada; 2004; 91 min.; English; BetaSP; Documentary

Israel-born Moshe Safdie has been considered one of the 20th century's great architects ever since his 1967 landmark modular "Habitat" in Montreal, which fused outrageous form and basic function. But Safdie is also a universal citizen, and a man who wrestles with space, form, public policy, and politics, as demonstrated in this lively documentary portrait. The film follows Safdie from decade to decade and project to project, including his visit to an entirely new city that he planned, Modi'in, Rochester Jewish Community Federation's Partnership 2000 matched community. Safdie also takes us to his Jerusalem apartment overlooking the Western wall, and much more. (Moshe Safdie is the master-architect on Rochester's Renaissance Square project.)

Followed by a Wine & Chocolate Celebration. Wine provided by Constellation Wine

Sponsored by Nixon Peabody LLP

2006 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 All Festival Pass

\$10\$12 (\$15 for non-members)\$1 discount (No discounts for Opening or Closing Nights)\$99 JCC Members; \$118 Non Members

ADVANCE PURCHASE TICKETS (Please see Order Form)

Charge by Phone585-461-2000, ext. 235Charge by FAX585-461-0805By MailMail to JCC, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618In PersonArts Department, JCC, 1200 Edgewood Avenue in Brighton

WALK-INS DAY OF SHOW

As per availability, tickets will be available 30 minutes prior to show time at the Little Theatre #1 Box Office or Dryden Theatre Box Office. RJFF can make no guarantees of ticket availability for walk-ins.

\$8

Advance sale tickets are NOT available at The Little Theatre or The Dryden Theatre. Please, do not call the theatres for information. Please call 461-2000, ext. 235 for information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SEATING

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

PASS HOLDER POLICY

All Festival Passes allow access to all films. Pass holder 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**.

REFUNDS

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

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 rules.

ACCESSIBILITY

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

FOOD

All foods served at RJFF events are in strict observance of the laws of kashrut.

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			Recognition	Sponsor a Film		Featured on Promotional Trailer	
Level			rjff.org					
Visionary \$10,000 +	•	4	•	6	•	•	•	•
Executive Producer \$5,000 - \$9,999	•	4	•	4	•	•	•	
Producer \$2,500 - \$4,999	•	2	•	4	•	•	•	
Director \$1,000 - \$2,499	•	2	•	2	•			
Writer \$500 - \$999	•	2	•	2				
Actor \$300 - \$499	•	2	•					
Extra \$150 - \$299	•	1	•					11

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.

I'D LIKE TO BECOME A FE	STIVA	l sponsc	R:			SUBTOTAL		
VISIONARY – \$10,000+								
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER – \$5,000+								
PRODUCER - \$2,500+								
DIRECTOR – \$1,000+								
WRITER - \$500+								
ACTOR – \$300+ EXTRA – \$150								
EXTRA – \$150								
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(Admission to all films and 15 minutes prior to show ti								
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	DATE		JCC	NON	QNTY			
SUBTOTAL			,		MBR	MBR		
Live and Become	7/16	3:00pm	\$8	\$10				
Cantor's Tale w/ Matisyahu	7/16	7:00pm	\$12	\$15				
Ritchie Boys	7/17		\$8	\$10				
Little Jerusalem w/ The Tribe	7/17	9:00pm	\$8	\$10				
Sister Rose's Passion/								
My 100 Children	7/18	6:30pm	\$8	\$10				
Go For Zucker	7/18	9:00pm	\$8	\$10				
Walk on Water	7/19	<u>6:30pm</u>	\$8	\$10				
What a Wonderful Place	7/19		\$8	\$10				
Singing Blacksmith (Dryden)	7/20	2:00pm	\$5	\$7				
Forgotten Refugees/								
Last Greeks on Broome Street		<u>6:30pm</u>	\$8	\$10				
Fateless	7/20	9:00pm	\$8	\$10				
Sophie Scholl (Dryden Theatre			\$8	\$10				
Sophie Scholl (Dryden Theatre			\$8	\$10				
Bar Mitzvah Boy	7/23	4:00pm	\$8	\$10				
Moshe Safdie	7/23	7:00pm	\$10	\$12				
TOTAL DUE:								
PAYMENT FORM: JCC Membership #:								
Check: Check enclosed made payable to Rochester Jewish Film Festival								
Credit Card: 🗖 Master Card 🗖 Visa 🗖 Discover 📮 AmEx								
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