

8th

J C C A M E S - A M Z A L A K

ROCHESTER

JEWISH **FILM** FESTIVAL

july 13-21, 2008

rjff.org

underwritten by

Friendly's



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thank you
for 7 great years!



Visit rjff.org

welcome:

Over these last eight years RJFF has screened more than 130 of the highest quality contemporary Jewish films from around the world to you, our dedicated audience. The reality is... we want to bring you more! The proliferation of Jewish film is astounding. In the last five years alone films with Jewish content and films produced in Israel have more than doubled. The RJFF committee members select more films than we are able to schedule at the summer Festival.

So... we are growing! This year RJFF has expanded to 8 days and 20 films – more days and more films than ever before! Additionally, RJFF has relocated a few select nights to the Dryden Theatre at George Eastman House. We are, as always, thrilled to be at The Little Theatre for more than half of our films this summer. Please be sure to double-check the schedule for the proper venue!

But that's only some of the news...

We're not just a once-a-year event anymore! RJFF is pleased to announce the new year-round **rjff SERIES underwritten by First Niagara**. Throughout the year, RJFF will screen films monthly – one Tuesday a month – at our home-away-from-home, The Little Theatre. With the help of First Niagara, our first rjff SERIES supporter, you will have the opportunity to see 10 additional films each year. As always, we welcome your feedback on how we're doing, particularly with this new venture. (For details on the rjff SERIES, check out pages 15-16 of this program or rjff.org.)

Thank you for your generosity and loyalty. We look forward to experiencing more movies together, with you, this year.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Helene'.

Helene Newman,
Chairperson since 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrea'.

Andrea Miller, RJFF
RJFF Director since 2001

the hardworking 2008 RJFF committee:



Pictured: Marcia Stern, Frederick Burger, Joe Silverberg, Elliot Fix, Helene Newman, Rita Rudnick, Barbara Aurnou, Sid Rosenzweig, Michal Benita-Weiss, Claudette Entenberg, Mike Silverstein, Andrea Miller, Howard Cohen, Rona Litt and Monica Gebell. Not Pictured: Carl Lasky and Joel Miller (Photo credit: Joe Silverberg)

RJFF mission statement:

The JCC of Greater Rochester established the Rochester Jewish Film Festival in 2001 to present the best contemporary Jewish themed films from around the world to the Rochester community. RJFF exists to promote awareness 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 allows valuable dialogue; and to create an international showcase for filmmakers whose work explores Jewish themes.

schedule at a glance

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 LITTLE 11 AM Fixing the World 1 PM Children of the Sun 4 PM Jerusalem is Proud to Present DRYDEN 7 PM Sixty Six	14 DRYDEN 6:15 PM Praying with Lior 8:45 PM Beaufort	15 JCC 2 PM Little Heroes LITTLE 6:30 PM Orthodox Stance 8:45 PM My Mexican Shiva	16 LITTLE 6:30 PM I Have Never Forgotten You 9 PM Aviva My Love	17 JCC 2 PM Yiddish Theatre: A Love Story LITTLE 6:30 PM My Father My Lord 8:30 PM The First Basket	18	19 DRYDEN 7 PM Noodle 9:15 PM The Secrets
20 LITTLE 1 PM Holy Land Hardball 4 PM Unsettled DRYDEN 7 PM Making Trouble	21 DRYDEN 7 PM Constantine's Sword	<p>Tickets on sale now. Call (585) 461-2000, ext. 235.</p> <p>Advance purchase of tickets is encouraged.</p> <p>NEW! rjff SERIES – films year round! (pg. 15)</p>				

film index

Aviva My Love.....	pg. 9
Beaufort.....	pg. 6
Children of the Sun.....	pg. 4
Constantine's Sword.....	pg. 14
First Basket, The.....	pg. 10
Fixing the World.....	pg. 4
Holy Land Hardball.....	pg. 12
I Have Never Forgotten You.....	pg. 8
Jerusalem is Proud to Present.....	pg. 5
Little Heroes.....	pg. 7
Making Trouble.....	pg. 13
My Father My Lord.....	pg. 10
My Mexican Shiva.....	pg. 8
Noodle.....	pg. 11
Orthodox Stance.....	pg. 7
Praying with Lior.....	pg. 6
Secrets, The.....	pg. 11
Sixty Six.....	pg. 5
Unsettled.....	pg. 12
Yiddish Theatre: A Love Story.....	pg. 9

festival venues



Alfred and Ida Hart Theatre



thank you

The Rochester Jewish Film Festival gratefully acknowledges its generous supporters:

visionary \$10,000+:



executive producer \$5,000+:



producer \$2,500+:



Futerman Supporting Foundation:

**Sara Futerman, Daphne Futerman & Ira Jevotovsky, Eli & Peggy Futerman,
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**Konar Family Foundation in cooperation with Monroe Community College Holocaust Genocide Studies Program
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director \$1,000+:



**Class Action LLC/Marc Frankel – Constable
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**Carolyn and Marvin Miller
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Marcia and Gary Stern

writer \$500+:

Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester
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Debby and Elliott Landsman
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Joe and Ellie Silverberg

special appreciation to the following for their contributions to RJFF:

Bob Russell and the entire Little Theatre Staff
Jim Healy, Michael Neault and the entire Dryden Theatre Staff
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Atlanta Jewish Film Festival
Boston Jewish Film Festival
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Greater Rochester Visitor's Association
Image Out: The Rochester Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival
The Toronto Jewish Film Festival, Ruth Cowing and Rosie Taravella
Rochester International High Falls Film Festival
Pam Sherman: Suburban Outlaw
Seattle Jewish Film Festival
Washington Jewish Film Festival
Yiddish Culture Center at the JCC
Iassac Zablocki, JCC Manhattan



Special recognition to the WHEC-TV 10 producers for their generous assistance in the production of the 2008 Rochester Jewish Film Festival trailer.



In honor of Israel 60, Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester is proud to support RJFF and the more than 10 Israeli films at this year's festival.

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!

Sunday, July 13, 11:00 AM, Little Theatre

FIXING THE WORLD

John Axness, 1998, 30 min., US, English



When David and Rachel's Grandpa Abe gives a homeless man a job, the children decide they'd like to do their part in *tikkun olam* – making the world a better place. Their efforts seem futile until Mitzvah Mouse magically transports them back to meet Maimonides (Ed Asner) who explains the value of giving.

rjff and you can help make the world a better place:

Please bring a gently used, or new, toy or book. Donations will benefit the Rochester Housing Authority. If you cannot attend this film, donations are welcome throughout the Festival. Donations are accepted at the JCC Arts Office or at Festival venues during RJFF films. Thank you!

Film followed by a *Tikkun Olam* Project and a yummy snack.

All ages welcome.

Generously underwritten by Carolyn and Marvin Miller.

"Discover how we can all be part of "fixing the world." *Jewish Television Network*

Sunday, July 13, 1:00 PM, Little Theatre

CHILDREN OF THE SUN

Ran Tal, 2007, 70 min., Israel, Hebrew with English subtitles



Children of the first kibbutzim in Israel were born in the early 20th century to youthful parents, full of hope. They have been called "Children of the Sun," because they were considered children of the "Sun of Nations" Revolution in Israel. Born into a utopia, they were destined to become "new citizens" for the common good and a life of equality. Featuring rare footage shot at the kibbutzim between 1930 and 1970, and rare recordings and conversations with family and friends, director Ran Tal weaves an amazing tapestry that is both a very personal and a very public story – a meta-narrative about the fascinating and founding myths of the Zionist movement in the Land of Israel.

"For the fascinating treatment of such a significant chapter in Israeli culture – the Kibbutz. . . .and for the inspired use of rare archival images." *The Jerusalem Film Festival's Jury statement for Best Documentary Film*

Sunday, July 13, 4:00 PM, Little Theatre

JERUSALEM IS PROUD TO PRESENT

(Yerushalayim Ge'ah Lehatzi)

Nitzan Gilady, 2007, 82 min., Israel/Arabic/English/Hebrew/
Yiddish with English subtitles



Unprecedented plans to hold the 2006 World Pride celebrations in Jerusalem are met with dramatic political and religious opposition in **JERUSALEM IS PROUD TO PRESENT**. This eye-opening and controversial exposé captures the fierce struggle of a nation torn between tradition and transformation. Death threats pour into Open House, Jerusalem's gay and lesbian community center; Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders band together over concerns about the "homosexualization of the Middle East"; Orthodox Jews riot in the streets; and the escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict further impedes event preparations. Nitzan Gilady's revealing film is an important record of a contemporary civil rights struggle in an environment where an otherwise divided society seems temporarily united in hate and homophobia. Winner of the Outstanding Documentary Feature Award at the Outfest Film Festival.

GUEST: Bruce Temkin, New Israel Fund, New York Director.

RJFF Community Partner: Image Out: The Rochester Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival



JERUSALEM IS PROUD TO PRESENT... "A must see for those committed to the survival of a pluralistic Israel." *National Center for Jewish Film*

Opening Night!

Sunday, July 13, 7:00 PM, Dryden Theatre

SIXTY SIX

Paul Weiland, 2006, 93 min., UK, English



This riotous British coming-of-age comedy features Helena Bonham Carter, Stephen Rea, and, as the young Londoner Bernie Rubens, newcomer Gregg Sulkin. Bernie just can't wait for his Bar Mitzvah. For once, he figures, he'll finally be the center of attention, and family and friends will have to put distractions aside. But it's the summer of '66, and World Cup fever is mounting. It looks like Bernie's special day will coincide with the final match. A wonderful mix of nostalgia, comedy and pathos, **SIXTY SIX** is an autobiographical story based on director Paul Weiland's childhood experiences growing up in post-war Britain.

Film followed by the 7th annual Opening Night Party on the grounds of George Eastman House. Live music from the New York Klezmer Orchestra and Friendly's Ice Cream for all.

Opening Night is generously underwritten by:

Friendly's

Monday, July 14, 6:15 PM, Dryden Theatre

PRAYING WITH LIOR

Ilana Trachtman, 2007, 88 min., US, English



Lior Liebling is a 13-year-old Jewish boy preparing for the greatest achievement of his life: his Bar Mitzvah. But this is no ordinary religious rite of passage. Lior has Down Syndrome, a genetic condition that causes mild to severe mental disability. Though his condition is challenging on many levels, Lior – the son of Philadelphia husband and wife rabbis – demonstrates a remarkable love for prayer and religious song, and professed closeness with God. Nicknamed “the little rebbe,” his uncanny spiritual connection has made him a savant in the eyes of his community and earned him a following among local synagogues. Ilana Trachtman’s affecting documentary presents a real-world story of faith, the heart-wrenching challenges of a child with disabilities, and the complex relationship Lior shares with family, friends and community.

GUEST: Filmmaker Ilana Trachtman expected to attend.

Generously underwritten by the Arc of Monroe County.

Additional support provided by Easter Seals New York, Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester and Mary Cariola Children’s Center.

PRAYING WITH LIOR... “A beautiful story about a very special boy...INSPIRING.” *Elliot Fix, rjff since 2005*

Monday, July 14, 8:45 PM, Dryden Theatre

BEAUFORT (Bufor)

Joseph Cedar, 2007, 125 min., Israel, Hebrew with subtitles



BEAUFORT was nominated for the Best Foreign Language Film at this year’s Academy Awards. This cinematic powerhouse chronicles an Israeli army unit’s defense of a strategic bunker inside a 12th-century Crusader fortress near the Lebanese border at the end of nearly two decades of occupation. This mesmerizing war/antiwar film from the director of the acclaimed **CAMPFIRE** has won prizes the world over – including the Berlin Film Festival’s Best Director award.

“The first great Israeli war film.” *Jerusalem Post*

Generously underwritten by Israel Bonds.

BEAUFORT... “This is a must- see for all festival enthusiasts! It will challenge your notion about how battles are fought and who really wins.” *Howard Cohen, rjff since 2005*

Tuesday, July 15, 2:00 PM, JCC Hart Theatre

Tween & Teen Screen **LITTLE HEROES**

Giborim Ktanim, 2006, 86 min., Israel, Hebrew with subtitles



One of the first children's films made in Israel, this delightful adventure begins when four children embark on a magical journey to rescue two injured teenagers. On her way home from summer camp, Alicia senses that there are people crying for help in a nearby valley. Determined to save them, she and three boys set off on a journey. Through some wild twists and turns, these four outsiders bond, become heroes and prove that children can make a difference in the world.

This film is subtitled and recommended for ages 10 and up. Tween & Teen Screen is open to any tween or teen under 18 at no charge. (Adult must be present.)

*Generously underwritten by Class Action LLC/
Marc Frankel – Constable.*

LITTLE HEROES... "...a film for the entire family...a great adventure." *Michal Benita-Weiss, rjff since 2007*

Tuesday, July 15, 6:30 PM, Little Theatre

ORTHODOX STANCE

Jason Hut, US, 2007, 82 min., English



In this corner... undefeated, 24-year old Brooklyn, New York, welter-weight Dmitriy Salita, an Orthodox Ukrainian Jewish immigrant boxer whose relentless body punches in the ring echo his relentless observance of Jewish law. Cameras follow Dmitriy through his grueling training, boxing matches and the challenges he faces as an Orthodox Jewish boxer. In the words of his trainer Jimmy O'Pharrow: "Kid looks Russian, prays Jewish and fights black." A story in the spirit of Rocky with more than a touch of Yiddishkeit, this documentary is sure to get audiences cheering.

Generously underwritten by Marcia and Gary Stern.

ORTHODOX STANCE... "I found this film fascinating...I am now following this boxer's career!" *Marcia Stern, rjff since 2005*

Tuesday, July 15, 8:45 PM, Little Theatre
MY MEXICAN SHIVA (*Morirse Está En Hebreo*)

Alexandro Springall, 2006, 95 min., Mexico, Spanish/Yiddish/Hebrew with English subtitles



When Moishe Tartakovsky, exuberant patriarch of a Mexico City family, dies of a heart attack in the middle of a raucous mariachi party, he leaves behind a large and complicated web of secrets that must be untangled over the course of his seven-day *shivah* (the prescribed mourning period in Jewish custom). In this sly and charming dysfunctional-family drama, the comically unraveling shivah will serve to account for the life of the deceased, as well as those left behind. The film is based on a story by Ilan Stavans who appeared at the 2005 Rochester Jewish Book Festival, and features an original score by the Klezmatics. Grand Prix of the Jury – Montreal World Film Festival; Official Selection – Palm Springs International Film.

Warning: Brief nudity

Generously underwritten by Brighton Memorial Chapel.

MY MEXICAN SHIVA ... "A mariachi party and a shiva – together at last! ... a great celebration of life." *Rita Rudnick, rjff since 2008*

Wednesday, July 16, 6:30 PM, Little Theatre
I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN YOU: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal

Richard Trank, 2007, 105 min., US, English



After barely surviving more than four years of concentration camp horrors and the loss of nearly his entire family, Simon Wiesenthal dedicated his life to tracking down and prosecuting more than 1,000 fugitive Nazis in the name of "justice, not vengeance." Narrated by Academy Award-winning actress Nicole Kidman, this intimate documentary features interviews with longtime Wiesenthal associates, government leaders from around the world, friends and family members. Previously unseen archival film and photos also highlight the film. Director Richard Trank travels across the globe – Austria, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Poland, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United States – to document this harrowing but vital story.

"When my life is over, and I meet up with the six million, I will be proud to say to them, I have never forgotten you..."
Simon Wiesenthal

Warning: Strong content

Generously underwritten by the Konar Family Foundation in cooperation with Monroe Community College Holocaust Genocide Studies Project.

I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN YOU... "A powerful, at times painful, yet ultimately inspirational and uplifting documentary."
Frederick Burger, rjff since 2008

Wednesday, July 16. 9:00 PM, Little Theatre

AVIVA MY LOVE (*Aviva Ahuvati*)

Shemi Zarhin, 2006, 107 min., Israel, Hebrew with English subtitles



This sharp and darkly funny drama broke box-office records in Israel. The magnificent Asi Levi plays hard-working Aviva, who tends to her kvetchy children, unstable mother, unemployed husband, and exhausting job – and clings, against all odds, to her dream of becoming a writer. When a famous author takes an interest in her work, Aviva jumps at the chance to be mentored, but is this the path to make her dreams come true? Winner of six awards, including Best Picture, from the Israeli Film Academy.

Warning: nudity

***Generously underwritten by Jewish Senior Life:
Jewish Home of Rochester, Wolk Manor and
The Summit at Brighton.***

AVIVA MY LOVE... “...a work that reminds us to find magic in the ordinary, the beauty of every day.” *Monica Gebell, rjff since 2005*

Thursday, July 17, 2:00 PM, JCC Hart Theatre

YIDDISH THEATRE: A LOVE STORY

Dan Katzir, 2007, 88 min., Israel, English/Yiddish with English subtitles



Enter the funny, larger-than-life world of Yiddish Theater through this moving new documentary film about Zypora Spaisman, an 85+ year-old actress who has helped keep Yiddish theater alive in America. With a passion for art, life and Yiddish, she fights to be relevant in a society that worships youth. A must see film for anyone who loves theater and has realized Yiddish is HIP!

Presented in cooperation with JCC CenterStage and the Yiddish Culture Center at the Jewish Community Center.

YIDDISH THEATRE: A LOVE STORY... “A gentle homage.”
Village Voice

Thursday, July 17, 6:30 PM, Little Theatre

MY FATHER MY LORD (*Hofshat Kaits*)

David Volach, 2007, 73 min., Israel, Hebrew with subtitles



Winner of Best Narrative film at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival, MY FATHER MY LORD is a quiet, intense film of shattering power and dreamlike beauty. Filmmaker David Volach drew upon his upbringing as one of 19 children in an ultra-Orthodox Jerusalem family to create this tale of a revered rabbi's effort to impart his deep faith to his young son. Framed as a variation on the biblical stories of Job, and of Abraham and Isaac, this haunting drama features the brilliant Assi Dayan (son of Moshe) as a true believer forced to confront the limits of his faith.

"An art-house dream." *Variety*

MY FATHER MY LORD... "A stunning debut film... meticulously accurate... written and directed by a classically trained Talmudist... heartbreaking... beautiful..." *The Forward*

Thursday, July 17, 8:30 PM, Little Theatre

THE FIRST BASKET

David Vyorst, 2007, 100 min., US, English



Did you know that Ossie Schectman, a Jewish kid from Queens, scored the NBA's very first basket? Schectman and his New York Knickerbocker teammates Sonny Hertzberg, Stan Stutz, Hank Rosenstein, Ralph Kaplowitz, Jake Weber, and Leo "Ace" Gottlieb went on to win the opening game 68-66. For Jewish immigrants in the early 20th century, sports played an essential part in becoming "American," and was a way of disproving stereotypes. THE FIRST BASKET features 50 years of archival footage. From The Harlem Globetrotters to the Celtics and from the Pistons to the Knicks, it is a film for the ages. Filmmaker David Vyorst talks with some of the game's most important figures including Red Auerbach, Abe Saperstein, Dolph Schayes, Max Zaslofsky, and more. Narrated by Peter Riegert.

GUEST: Filmmaker David Vyorst expected to attend.

Generously underwritten by Nixon Peabody.

This presentation is also supported by Carolyn Nussbaum and Eric Brandt in honor of Carolyn's cousin, Ralph Kaplowitz, one of the members of the original New York Knickerbockers team featured in the film.

FIRST BASKET... "High-fives all around for this historical and entertaining look at basketball!" *Joe Silverberg, rjff since 2007*

Saturday, July 19, 7:00 PM, Dryden Theatre

NOODLE

Ayelet Menahemi, 2007, 90 min., Israel, Hebrew/Mandarin with English subtitles



Miri is a twice-widowed, El Al flight attendant with a well-regulated existence. Her life is suddenly turned upside down by an abandoned Chinese boy whose migrant-worker mother has disappeared. The film is a touching comic-drama in which two human beings – as different from each other as Tel Aviv is from Beijing – accompany each other on a remarkable journey, one that takes them both back to a meaningful life. Winner of the 2007 Israeli Film Academy Awards for Best Supporting Actress; Winner-Grand Prix of the Jury – Montreal World Film Festival.

"The Israeli movie of the year. Highly recommended. Charming, humanly, heart-warming and moving." *Channel One, Israel*

Generously underwritten by the Rubens Family Foundation and the Samloff Family Fund.

NOODLE... "A pure joy! The little boy is mesmerizing." *Mike Silverstein, rjff since 2007*

Saturday, July 19, 9:15 PM, Dryden Theatre

THE SECRETS

Avi Nesher, 2007, 120 min., Israel, Hebrew with English subtitles



THE SECRETS is a film filled with passion, love and faith, in which two brilliant young women discover their own voices within the Orthodox Jewish society. Their faith is tested when they enter a religious seminary for women in Sfad where they encounter the modern world and some of its temptations. The film is beautifully shot and wonderfully cast. Its superb cast includes the veteran French actress Fanny Ardant.

THE SECRETS' director, Avi Nesher, is considered one of Israel's most influential filmmakers. He wrote and directed one of Israel's biggest hits, TURN LEFT AT THE END OF THE WORLD, which screened to sold-out audiences throughout Israel, and at rjff 2005.

Warning: sexual content/nudity

Official Selection, Toronto International Film Festival

THE SECRETS... "Complex, provocative...The Secrets will surely inspire debate – as it did within the rjff committee." *Sid Rosenzweig, rjff since 2001*

special test screening

Sunday, July 20, 1:00 PM, Little Theatre

HOLY LAND HARDBALL

Brett Rapkin & Erik Kesten, 2008, 75 min., US, English/
Hebrew/Spanish with English subtitles



With extraordinary access, HOLY LAND HARDBALL follows the unlikely formation of the Israel Baseball League, the first ever professional baseball circuit in the Middle East. The film chronicles the highly unpredictable journey from the first player tryouts in Massachusetts in August 2006 through the league's scheduled first pitch in Israel in June 2007. In its efforts to bring America's pastime to the Israeli people, the IBL opens the door to the dreams of 120 very diverse ballplayers. Owners, coaches and players alike have the challenging task of drawing the Israeli people to the entirely unfamiliar game of baseball after 5,767 years without the sport. Add a skeptical Israeli media, disgruntled players, delayed stadium preparations, customs snafus, a rapidly approaching Opening Day and the question they are left with is: *If we build it, will they come?*

GUESTS: Filmmakers Brett Rapkin & Erik Kesten expected to attend.

The Rochester Jewish Film Festival is pleased to participate in this test screening as part of an ongoing industry-wide effort to assist and encourage independent filmmakers. Audience members will be asked to complete a questionnaire at the end of the film.

***Generously underwritten by Davie Kaplan
Certified Public Accountants.***

HOLY LAND HARDBALL... "Kosher Cracker Jacks anyone? This film is a pleasure!" *Andrea Miller, rjff since 2001*

Sunday, July 20, 4:00 PM, Little Theatre

UNSETTLED

Adam Hootnick, 2006, 80 min., US, English/Hebrew with
English subtitles



Winner of the Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary at the 2007 Slamdance Film Festival, UNSETTLED presents the historic 2005 withdrawal from the Gaza Strip through the eyes of six young people. Three are settlers determined to stay. Two are soldiers with different feelings about the order to evict Jews from their homes. One is an activist. These twenty-something surfers, soldiers and settlers are barely out of their adolescence, and yet they occupy center stage in a national drama as both the vanguard resisting the eviction, and the soldiers executing it. Director Adam Hootnick worked for MTV News prior to shooting UNSETTLED on his own. The driving narrative style and songs by Matisyahu propel this dramatic story forward, as a generation in its twenties faces a defining moment.

GUEST: Filmmaker Adam Hootnick expected to attend.

Generously underwritten by The Norry Family.

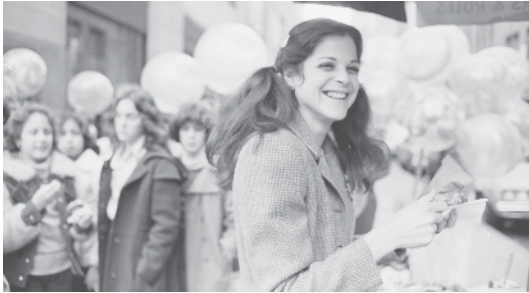
UNSETTLED... "You will have an up-close and personal look at the Gaza pull-out... This is a powerful documentary..."
Rona Litt, rjff since 2003

Gilda's Night at rjff!

Sunday, July 20, 7:00 PM, Dryden Theatre

MAKING TROUBLE

Rachel Talbot, 2006, 86 min., US, English



Come have fun at this laugh-out-loud, impeccably researched documentary exploring six legendary American Jewish women comics. Produced by the Jewish Women's Archive, MAKING TROUBLE is a tribute to Molly Picon, Fanny Brice, Sophie Tucker, Joan Rivers, Gilda Radner, and Wendy Wasserstein – women whose comedy defied cultural expectations and changed the rules. Guiding this comedic journey are four of today's leading Jewish comedians – Judy Gold, Jackie Hoffman, Cory Kahaney and Jessica Kirson. The witty foursome's repartee crackles with jokes and their sheer delight at the comedic acumen and legacy of their predecessors.

GUESTS: Post-film discussion with **Gail Reimer, Executive Director of the Jewish Women's Archive, and Executive Producer of MAKING TROUBLE;** **Alan Zweibel** author of "Bunny Bunny: Gilda Radner, A Sort of Romantic Comedy;" and **Veronica Lee, Executive Director of Gilda's Club. Special appearance: Pam Sherman: Suburban Outlaw.**

***Generously underwritten by Gilda's Club Rochester:
Cancer support for the whole family, the whole time.***



Almost-Closing-Night Party

A NOOGIELAND BASH

in celebration of Gilda!

(Party to follow film and discussion)



Gilda's Club Rochester is a free, non-profit support community for all people living with cancer, their families and friends. Comedian Gilda Radner inspired the opening of the first Gilda's Club in 1995 when she was living with cancer. Today there are 30 Gilda's Clubs. Gilda's Club Rochester opened in September 2000. Last year alone there were more than 12,500 visits in Rochester. Gilda's Club ensures that no one has to live with cancer alone. Gilda's Club Rochester is proud to sponsor MAKING TROUBLE as a tribute to Gilda Radner, and as a tribute to all people living with cancer. Visit www.gildasclubrochester.org.

MAKING TROUBLE. . . "Wonderful and fun. . . we loved this film, and these women!" *rjff committee 2008*

BONUS NIGHT! Extra
Monday Night at rjff!

Monday, July 21, 7:00 PM, Dryden Theatre

CONSTANTINE'S SWORD

Oren Jacoby, 2006, 93 min., US, English/German/Italian/Yiddish, with English subtitles



Based on the best-selling book of the same name, Oscar-nominated documentarian Oren Jacoby follows author, journalist, playwright, and former Catholic priest James Carroll through the controversial history of the Catholic church and anti-Semitism. Beginning with the scandal of the growing influence of evangelical Christianity within today's US Air Force Academy – and with it, rising religious intolerance – we're then taken on a journey back to Biblical times, Rome, and the Crusades. This new film is both a fascinating story that works to uncover the roots of religious intolerance, and a cautionary tale about the dangers that lurk in America today. At its core, CONSTANTINE'S SWORD is a compelling personal narrative – a kind of detective story – as one man uncovers the dark areas of his own past, searching for a better future. Oren Jacoby directed *SISTER ROSE'S PASSION*, seen at the 2006 RJFF.

GUESTS: Post-film discussion presented by the Brennan Goldman Institute for Catholic Jewish Studies.

Generously underwritten by the Futerman Supporting Foundation: Sara Futerman, Daphne Futerman & Ira Jevotovsky, Eli & Peggy Futerman, Rina & Danny Chessin.

CONSTANTINE'S SWORD... "Amazing! This stunning film sweeps us along as we see Christian/Jewish history through a new lens." *Barbara Aurnou, rjff since 2002*

9th Annual Rochester Jewish Film Festival

july 12-20, 2009

new!

JCC AMES - AMZALAK
ROCHESTER
JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

1st annual **rjff** SERIES

It's ten more films...with a Jewish twist!

Presented by  **First Niagara**
Our first priority is you.

SERIES Schedule:

Tuesday, **AUGUST** 19, 7:30 PM, Little Theatre
Gloomy Sunday (Ein Lied von Liebe und Tod)

Germany, 1999, 114 minutes, Hungarian and German with subtitles

A favorite RJFF film from 2002: GLOOMY SUNDAY! Set against the backdrop of Budapest, this romantic mystery is an ironic parable about innocence and love, guilt and hate. The Toronto Jewish Film Festival shows this film EVERY year! (Nudity, sexual content.)

Tuesday, **SEPTEMBER** 23, 7:30 PM Little Theatre
Lonely Man of Faith: The Life and Legacy of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik

Ethan Isenberg, 2006, 99 min., US, English
Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik was the leader of Modern Orthodox Judaism in 20th-century America. In his stunning debut film, Ethan Isenberg explores the impact and the complicated legacy of this brilliant man.

GUEST: Filmmaker Ethan Isenberg expected to attend.

Tuesday **OCTOBER** 28, 7:30 PM, Little Theatre
A Slim Peace

Yael Luttwak, 2007, 60 min., UK, Arabic/English/Hebrew with English subtitles

Can the universal struggle for weight loss advance peace in the Middle East? As the pounds melt away for 14 disparate women, so too does the ingrained mistrust.

In cooperation with the 2008 Jewish Book Festival, the film will be followed by a (healthy!) cooking presentation.

Guest cookbook author TBD.

Tuesday, **NOVEMBER** 18, 7:30 PM, Little Theatre
Someone to Run With (Mishehu Larutz Ito)

Oded Davidoff, 2006, 118 min., Israel, Hebrew with English subtitles

While trying to track down the owner of a lost dog, a shy 17-year old pieces together the incredible story behind her disappearance. Based on the suspenseful bestselling novel by Israeli novelist David Grossman.

Tuesday, **DECEMBER** 16, 7:30 PM, Little Theatre
Rabin Peres: Everything is Personal

Arik Henig, 2007, 88 min., Israel, Hebrew w/ English subtitles
This gripping film explores the complex professional and personal ties linking Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, two men with radical differences whose actions – and rivalry – dramatically shaped today's Middle East.

Tuesday, **JANUARY** 20, 2009, 7:30 PM, Little Theatre
Arranged

Diane Crespo & Stefan C. Schaefer, 2007, 89 min., US, English

Two first-time schoolteachers, one Muslim and one Jewish, form an unlikely friendship in this endearing comedy that smartly tackles issues of prejudice and diversity.

Tuesday, **FEBRUARY** 17, 2009, 7:30 PM, Little Theatre
Champagne Spy

Nadav Schirman, 2007, 90 min., Israel/Germany, Hebrew with English subtitles

The true story of a blond, blue-eyed Mossad agent living undercover as an ex-Nazi German millionaire in Egypt. Best Documentary, Israeli Film Academy, 2007.

Tuesday, **MARCH** 24, 2009, 7:30 PM, Little Theatre
Tehilim

Raphael Nadiari, 2007, 96 min., Israel, Hebrew with English subtitles

In today's Jerusalem, a Jewish family leads an ordinary life until the father mysteriously disappears following a car accident.

Tuesday, **APRIL** 28, 2009, 7:30 PM, Little Theatre
Saved By Deportation: An Unknown

Odyssey of Polish Jews

Slawomir Grunberg and Robert Podgursky, 2006, 89 min., US/Russia/Poland/ Uzbekistan, English/Russian/Yiddish with English subtitles

In commemoration of Yom Hashoah, RJFF presents the little known story of Asher and Shyfra, who escaped the Nazi Holocaust, along with 200,000 of their fellow Eastern Poland countrymen, at the unlikely hand of Joseph Stalin.

Tuesday, **MAY** 19, 2009, 7:30 PM, Little Theatre
SOUVENIRS (Suvenirim)

Shahar Cohen/Halil Efrat, 2006, 75 min., Israel, English/ Hebrew with English subtitles

The surprise winner of the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival Audience Award follows a father and son on a journey to retrace the father's tracks as a WWII Jewish Brigade member. Instead, the pair end up on a search for wartime girlfriends! Best Documentary Israeli Film Academy, 2006.

Immediately followed by:

Exodus: A Deaf Jewish Family Escapes the Holocaust

Patti Durr, 2006, 25 min., US, English and American Sign Language

This tender film tells a little known story about one deaf family's flight from Nazi occupied Austria and their detainment on Ellis Island.

GUEST: Exodus filmmaker Patti Durr; RIT NTID Associate Professor, Department of Cultural and Creative Studies.

rojff SERIES INFORMATION:

How do I find out more about the rojff SERIES?

Just go to the RJFF website, www.rojff.org where you will find photos, trailers and more! Note: Prior to going to an rojff SERIES film we encourage you to check the website for up-to-date information. Films are subject to change.

Where are the rojff SERIES films screened?

All rojff SERIES films take place at The Little Theatre. (rojff SERIES films will screen in one of the back theatres.) All films begin at 7:30 PM.

How do I purchase rojff SERIES tickets? rojff SERIES 10 Punch Pass:

The rojff SERIES 10 Punch Pass is designed with flexibility in mind. It is good for 10 individual admissions – any combination. For example, 10 people can go to one film; bring a different friend to 5 films; 1 person can see all 10 films... It's your choice!

Punch Passes will be available at Festival venues during rojff films or at the JCC.

rojff SERIES 10 Punch Pass Prices:

Before AND during rojff 2008:

JCC Members \$50/Non-members \$60

Post-Festival: JCC Members \$70/ Non-members \$80

rojff SERIES Individual tickets:

Individual film tickets may be purchased after the Festival, beginning July 22, 2008, by calling 585-461-2000, ext. 235.

Individual tickets: JCC Members \$8/ Non-members \$10

Presented by



TICKET INFORMATION

ADVANCE SALE TICKET PRICES

JCC Member General Admission Ticket	\$8
Non-Member General Admission Ticket	\$10
Opening and Closing Nights (Food included)	\$12 for JCC Members/\$15 for Non-members
Students, Seniors (65+) and Groups of 20 or more	\$1 discount (Sorry, no discounts at the door.)
All Festival Pass	\$108 JCC Members; \$125 Non-members

ADVANCE PURCHASE TICKETS (Please see Order Form)

Charge by Phone	585-461-2000, ext. 235
By Mail	Mail to JCC, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618
In Person	Arts 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, Dryden Theatre Box Office and JCC Hart Theatre. Advance sale tickets are NOT available at The Little Theatre or The Dryden Theatre. RJFF can make no guarantees of ticket availability for walk-ins.

For information please call the JCC at 461-2000, ext. 235. Please, do not call the theatres for information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SEATING

Seating is general admission except for 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. Pass Holder seating section is reserved until 15 minutes prior to start of screening. RJFF cannot guarantee seating for late arrivals. All Festival Passes are non-transferable. 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 lots 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. Parking is available in the main parking lot of the JCC.

RJFF encourages carpooling – Don't struggle for parking – GO GREEN!

ACCESSIBILITY

The Little Theatre, Dryden Theatre and JCC Hart Theatre are handicap accessible.

FOOD

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

QUESTIONS

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

underwriting opportunities and benefits

Please consider becoming a Rochester Jewish Film Festival Sponsor!

Benefit	Recognition on Festival Brochure	All Festival Passes	Recognition in JCC Center News, rjff.org	Sponsor Recognition Event	Sponsor a Film	Signage at Theaters and JCC	Featured on Promotional Trailer	Special Festival Recognition
Level								
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 \$350 - \$499	•	2	•					
Extra \$175 - \$299	•	1	•					

fast food at the festival

No time between work and the movies? No problem!

Order a kosher sandwich in advance, then simply pick it up at the Little Theatre when you arrive at the Festival.

Sandwiches provided by Brownstein's Deli and Bakery.

(This service is not available at the Dryden Theatre.)

order your *fast* food here:

All sandwiches are \$7!		
	Qty	Subtotal
TUESDAY, JULY 15		
Turkey on Rye Bread w/ lettuce and tomato		
Hummus in a Pita w/ lettuce and tomato		
Chicken Salad on Wheat Bread w/ lettuce and tomato		
YOUR NAME:		
WEDNESDAY, JULY 16		
Turkey on Rye Bread w/ lettuce and tomato		
Hummus in a Pita w/ lettuce and tomato		
Chicken Salad on Wheat Bread w/ lettuce and tomato		
YOUR NAME:		
THURSDAY, JULY 17		
Turkey on Rye Bread w/ lettuce and tomato		
Hummus in a Pita w/ lettuce and tomato		
Chicken Salad on Wheat Bread w/ lettuce and tomato		
YOUR NAME:		
TOTAL		

Please add the above TOTAL to your Ticket Order

please note...

- All orders must be pre-paid.
- All orders must be placed at least 48 hours in advance of the film you will attend.
- Your pre-ordered and pre-paid meal will be available for pick-up at The Little Theatre #1 after 5:30 PM.
- Sorry, no food substitutions.
- Drinks & dessert may be purchase at The Little Theatre.
- A limited number of extra sandwiches will be available at The Little on a first-come, first -served basis.

betay avon!