



JCC AMES AMZALAK  
**ROCHESTER**  
*International*  
**JEWISH** July  
 12-20  
**FILM** 2015  
 rjff.org **FESTIVAL**



Underwritten by the William and Sheila Konar Foundation and Rubens Family Foundation



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### PRESENTED BY



## It's festival time!

In celebration of our 15th year, we bring you 27 contemporary films from around the globe, 19 of which are award-winning. We have 3 visiting filmmakers, 4 post-film discussions, a delicious deli lunch – and, of course, you won't want to miss our annual Opening and Closing Night parties with ice cream and live music!

We are grateful to our Festival underwriters, the William and Sheila Konar Foundation and Rubens Family Foundation. We also thank First Niagara for underwriting our JCC Matinee Pass again this year.

This is our 4th year of bringing films to Jewish Senior Life for the residents to enjoy the experience of Jewish cinema right on their campus. We thank the **Jewish Senior Life Foundation** for sponsoring this important effort and for underwriting this year's **Opening Night film, *Above & Beyond: An Untold True Story***.

We thank all of you for your support of this premiere Film Festival, and can't wait to see you at the movies!

Lori Michlin Harter, Director

Marcia Stern, Chair

A special thank you to Fred Burger, long-time, beloved committee member and former chair of the RIJFF. We wish you all the best in your retirement. We'll miss you!



## RIJFF Mission Statement

The Jewish Community Center 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. RIJFF 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 allow valuable dialogue; and to create an international showcase for filmmakers who are Jewish or whose work explores Jewish themes.

### 2015 festival venues:



900 East Avenue



240 East Avenue



Alfred and Ida Hart Theatre  
1200 Edgewood Avenue

# JULY 2015 FILM CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>DRYDEN</b> 1pm <b>BELLE &amp; SEBASTIAN</b></p> <p>4pm <b>TO LIFE</b></p> <p>7:30pm <b>ABOVE &amp; BEYOND</b> </p> <p><i>Opening Night Party!</i></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>JCC</b> 11am <b>DELI MAN</b></p> <p>1:30pm <b>GOD'S SLAVE</b></p> <p><b>DRYDEN</b> 6pm <b>MR. KAPLAN</b></p> <p>9pm <b>GETT: THE TRIAL OF VIVIANE AMSELEM</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>JCC</b> 11am <b>THE GREEN PRINCE</b></p> <p>1:30pm <b>ANYWHERE ELSE</b></p> <p><b>LITTLE</b> 6pm <b>LITTLE WHITE LIE</b> </p> <p>9pm <b>A BORROWED IDENTITY</b> (Based on the novel DANCING ARABS)</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>JCC</b> 11am <b>THE RETURN</b></p> <p>2pm <b>SACRED SPERM</b></p> <p><b>LITTLE</b> 6pm <b>BENEATH THE HELMET</b></p> <p>9pm <b>24 DAYS</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>JCC</b> 11am <b>THE MUSES OF ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER</b></p> <p>1:30pm <b>HANNA'S JOURNEY</b></p> <p><b>LITTLE</b> 6pm <b>ZEMENE</b> </p> <p>9pm <b>THE FAREWELL PARTY</b></p>		<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>DRYDEN</b> 6pm <b>HAVANA CURVEBALL</b></p> <p>8pm <i>Double Feature:</i> <b>ZERO MOTIVATION</b></p> <p><b>YOU MUST BE JOKING</b></p>

SUNDAY	MONDAY
<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>JCC</b> 10:30am <b>MACROPOLIS</b></p> <p><b>DRYDEN</b> 2pm <b>THE DOVE FLYER</b></p> <p>6pm <b>DOUGH</b></p> <p>8:30pm <b>THE LAST MENTSCH</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>DRYDEN</b> 7pm <b>SERIAL (BAD) WEDDINGS</b></p> <p><i>Closing Night Party!</i></p>



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*Post-film discussion with visiting filmmaker.*

# Thank you!

Visionary \$25,000

**William and Sheila Konar Foundation**  
**Rubens Family Foundation**

Director \$5,000+



**Jewish Senior Life**  
FOUNDATION

Editor \$2,500+

## **Futerman Supporting Foundation:**

**Sara Futerman, Rina and Danny Chessin,  
Daphne Futerman and Ira Jevotovsky, and Eli and Peggy Futerman**

## **Bernard Schuster CHAI Fund**

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**Bunny and Mort Skirboll**

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**Marcia and Gary Stern**

**Dr. Oren Weiss: Rochester Periodontal Group**



## Agent \$500+

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Ilana and Merwyn Kroll  
Stuart Levison  
The BenAnna Bunch:  
Anna and Ben Markowitz  
Drs. Arnold and Margaret Matlin  
Rabbi Amy Sapowitz  
Joyce and Charles Schachter  
Linda and Sherwin B. Weinstein  
Robin and Michael Weintraub  
Elise and Joe Wojciechowski  
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Lorraine Wolch and  
Donald Onimus

## Actor \$360+

Donna and Martin H. Adwin  
Ann and Murray Astarita  
Debi and Ralph Brenner  
The Brokery: Syb and Arnie Bernhard  
Daniel S. Daniel and  
Fern Marlan Daniel  
Eileen and Marvin Fishman  
Carolyn and Roger Friedlander  
Essie Germanow  
Burt Gordon and Phyllis Kasdin  
Marvin and Barbara Gray  
Heritage Financial Services:  
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Barb Orenstein and Jim Present  
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Raquel Benchoam, M.D.  
Allan and Chantiza Stern  
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Susan and Maurice Zauderer

## Sylvia & Philip Kowal Fund

Susan Carp  
*in memory of Robert Fink*  
Bonnie Jackson  
Robert and Janet Kowal  
Kathleen London  
June L. Stornelli

## In-kind support

Mann's Jewelers

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The Rubens Family  
Marc Cataldi  
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Tom Habecker  
Curt Dengler  
Bri Merkel  
Ruth Cowing  
Gail Drew  
JCC Staff  
Dryden Theatre Staff  
Little Theatre Staff  
Geulah von Perlstein  
Menemsha Films  
New York Jewish Film Festival  
San Francisco Jewish Film Festival



To the film introducers and all of the volunteers who donate their time - Thank you!



# OPENING DAY!

## BELLE & SEBASTIAN

**Sunday, July 12, 1pm, Dryden Theatre**

Director: Nicolas Vanier, France, 2014, 117min,  
French w/ subtitles, narrative/family

A beloved story from the 1960s children's book, this is the inspiring tale of the unshakable bond between young resourceful Sebastian and the giant mountain sheepdog he tames and calls Belle. Set during WWII in a peaceful village of the snowy Alps, on the border of occupied France and Switzerland, Sebastian lives with his grizzled grandfather and cousin Angelina. Lonely and dreaming of the day his mother will return from America for him, he befriends Belle. With Nazis in the village rooting out the resistance fighters who are helping Jewish refugees cross the border, Belle and Sebastian's loyalty - to each other and the village that's embraced them both - will be put to the test.



*Palm Beach  
Jewish Film Festival*



*Chicago Int'l  
Children's Film Festival,  
Seattle Int'l Film Festival*



*Filmball Vienna 2015*

*Underwritten by*

**Futerman Supporting Foundation:**

**Sara Futerman, Rina and Danny Chessin, Daphne**

**Futerman and Ira Jevotovsky, and**

**Eli and Peggy Futerman**

*Community partner:*



[www.printRoc.com](http://www.printRoc.com)

## TO LIFE!

**AUF DAS LEBEN!**

**Sunday, July 12, 4pm, Dryden Theatre**

Director: Uwe Janson, Germany, 2014, 90min,  
German w/ subtitles, narrative

"Auf das Leben!," which translates into English as "to life!" and into Hebrew as "I'chaim!," the celebrated Jewish toast, is the unashamedly *Harold and Maude*-like story of two very unlikely individuals. Starring the grande dame of German cinema, Hannelore Elsner, and Max Riemelt, one of the most acclaimed young stars of German and international films.

Strokes of fate have taken their toll on the aging cabaret singer Ruth and the seriously ill young Jonas. Yet despite their great age difference and their entirely opposite lifetime experiences, they form an intense bond and give each other a reason and purpose to live.



# OPENING NIGHT!

## ABOVE AND BEYOND THE UNTOLD TRUE STORY

Sunday, July 12, 7:30pm, Dryden Theatre

Director: Roberta Grossman, USA, 2014, 90 min, English, documentary/history

In 1948, group of WWII Jewish American pilots answered a call for help from the newfound Israel nation. In secret and at great personal risk, they smuggled planes out of the U.S., trained behind the Iron Curtain in Czechoslovakia and flew for Israel in its War of Independence. As members of Machal – “volunteers from abroad” – this ragtag band of brothers not only turned the tide of the war; they also embarked on personal journeys of discovery and renewed Jewish pride. *Above and Beyond* is their story.



WITH FILMMAKER

# NANCY SPIELBERG



Underwritten by



Jewish Senior Life  
FOUNDATION

Chicago, Hong Kong, Miami,  
Palm Beach, Philadelphia,  
San Diego and Seattle  
Jewish Film Festivals



ICE CREAM RECEPTION  
WITH LIVE MUSIC  
TO FOLLOW!





## DELI MAN

Monday, July 13, 11am, JCC Hart Theatre

Director: Erik Greenberg Anjou, USA, 2014, 91min, English, documentary/food

For some, delicatessen food is close to a religious experience: A tender cut of corned beef steeped in its juices; A full-bodied garlic dill pickle; Spicy brown mustard with grain; A blintz that melts in your mouth like a creamsicle on a summer's day. Recipes and culinary garnishes from Hungary, Poland, Russia, and Romania that flowed into late 19th and early 20th century America and soon became part of an American culinary and cultural vernacular called "Deli."

In Houston, Texas, third generation deli man Ziggy Gruber has built arguably the finest delicatessen in U.S. history. Award winning director Erik Greenberg Anjou travels the nation and beyond in pursuit of the great Jewish deli experience with humor, heart, and a hunger for those succulent dishes behind the counter.

Notable deli fans Larry King, Jerry Stiller, and Fyvush Finkel add their voices to a chorus of foodie affection.

**Pre-order a box deli lunch to enjoy after the film!**

*Underwritten by*  
**Susan and Saul Marsh**

## GOD'S SLAVE

Monday, July 13, 1:30pm, JCC Hart Theatre

Director: Joel Novoa, Venezuela/Argentina, 2013, 91min, Spanish w/ subtitles, narrative/drama

Filed on location in Argentina, Venezuela, Uruguay and the U.S., this finely crafted thriller with taut performances and complex characters is an adrenaline-rushing drama set against the 1994 bombing of a Jewish community center in Argentina. Stationed in Caracas, Ahmed, a respected doctor and family man, also operates undercover as a part of a terrorist sleeper cell. In 1994, he is called on to attack a Jewish community center and has to leave his family. Israeli intelligence sends David, a steely, efficient agent who tries to stop the plan. Both men embark on parallel paths of martyrdom, blinded by hatred born of childhood trauma, and both are prepared to sacrifice everything for their beliefs.



Gramado Film Festival  
2014



Huelva Latin American  
Film Festival 2014



Lleida Latin American  
Film Festival 2014



Santa Barbara Int'l  
Film Festival 2014



**FIRST  
NIAGARA Matinee**





## MR. KAPLAN

Monday, July 13, 6pm, Dryden Theatre

Director: Álvaro Brechner, Uruguay/Germany/Spain, 2014, 98min, Spanish w/ subtitles, narrative/drama/comedy/thriller

Jacob Kaplan has lived a good, albeit ordinary life since fleeing Europe for Uruguay. Suddenly, at 76, he agonizes over existential questions: What have I accomplished? How will I be remembered? Who do I matter to? Seeking to validate his life, Kaplan is seized with a bizarre notion: "I'll bet that elderly German immigrant who owns the nearby beach restaurant must be a Nazi war criminal."

Like Eichmann, the restaurateur must face justice. Kaplan decides he must capture him and bring him to Israel for trial. Kaplan becomes a modern version of Don Quixote, clumsily tilting at his illusionary windmill. This delightful black comedy is filled with laughter and tears, as Kaplan strives to leave behind a worthy legacy.



87th Academy Awards



Chicago Int'l Film Festival,  
BFI London Film Festival

Underwritten by



## GETT: THE TRIAL OF VIVIANE AMSELEM

Monday, July 13, 9pm, Dryden Theatre

Director: Ronit and Shlomi Elkabetz, Israel/Germany/France, 2014, 115min, Arabic/French/Hebrew w/ subtitles, narrative/drama

In Israel, there is neither civil marriage nor civil divorce. Only rabbis can legitimate a marriage or its dissolution in a religious court. And this dissolution is only possible with full consent from the husband, who in the end, has more power than the judges. Viviane Amsalem has been applying for divorce for three years. But her husband Elisha will not agree. His cold intransigence, Viviane's determination to fight for her freedom, and the ambiguous role of the judges shape a procedure in which tragedy vies with absurdity, and everything is brought out for judgment, apart from the initial request.



Israeli Academy Awards  
(Ophir Awards)



Jerusalem Int'l  
Film Festival



Jerusalem Int'l  
Film Festival



Chicago Int'l  
Film Festival

Underwritten by

Mona and Mark Kolko



## THE GREEN PRINCE

Tuesday, July 14, 11am, JCC Hart Theatre

Director: Nadav Schirman, Israel, 2014, 101min, Hebrew/English w/ subtitles, narrative/true story

In the style of a tense psychological thriller, this extraordinary documentary will challenge much of what you know about the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It recounts the true story of the son of a Hamas leader who emerged as one of Israel's prized informants, and the Shin Bet agent who risked his career to protect him. Based on Mosab Hassan Yousef's bestselling memoir *Son of Hamas*, *The Green Prince* exposes a complex world of terror, betrayal, and impossible choices. Through exclusive first-hand testimony, dramatic action sequences, and rare archival footage, decades of secrets come to light in this unflinching exploration of a profound spiritual transformation and the transcendent bonds of friendship.



WINNER  
Best  
Documentary  
(World  
Cinema)

Sundance  
Film Festival 2014



AUDIENCE  
AWARD

Moscow Int'l  
Film Festival 2014



WINNER  
Best  
Editing

Docaviv Awards 2014



WINNER  
Best  
Screenplay

German Perspective  
Cinema Awards

## ANYWHERE ELSE

Tuesday, July 14, 1:30pm, JCC Hart Theatre

Director: Ester Amrami, Germany, 2014, 85min, German/English/Hebrew/Yiddish w/ subtitles, narrative/comedy/drama

This multi-generational heartwarmer honors the relationships between a daughter, a mother, and a beloved grandmother. Noa has been living in Berlin for 8 years now. She is about to graduate from university and recently moved in with her German boyfriend Jörg. Although everything should be running smoothly, she suddenly experiences a personal crisis. Her master thesis (a dictionary for non-translatable words) is deemed inadequate by her professor, and Jörg leaves to go on tour with his orchestra.

So Noa spontaneously flies back to Israel for just a short holiday in her homeland. Sun, food, a visit with her family, and speaking her own language is all doing her a lot of good until everyday life hunts her down in Israel faster than she could ever have imagined.





## LITTLE WHITE LIE



Tuesday, July 14, 6pm, Little Theatre

Director: Lacey Schwartz and James Adolphus, USA, 2014, 66min, English, documentary/race/identity

This personal documentary is about the legacy of family secrets, denial, and the power of telling the truth. What defines our identity, our family of origin or the family that raises us? How do we come to terms with the sins and mistakes of our parents? Lacey discovers that answering those questions means understanding her parents' stories as well as her own. She pieces together her family history and the story of her dual identity using home videos, archival footage, interviews, and episodes from her own life. Meet filmmaker Lacey Schwartz in person and learn her story of growing up in a typical upper middle class Jewish household in Woodstock, NY, with loving parents and a strong sense of her Jewish identity.



## A BORROWED IDENTITY

(BASED ON THE NOVEL *DANCING ARABS*)

Tuesday, July 14, 9pm, Little Theatre

Director: Eran Riklis, Israel/Germany/France, 2014, 105min, Hebrew/Arabic w/ subtitles, narrative/drama

Award-winning Israeli filmmaker Eran Riklis' (*Lemon Tree*, *A Syrian Bride*) latest film is a thoroughly engrossing adaptation of Sayed Kashua's semi-autobiographical novel *Dancing Arabs*. First love, school bullies, and British new wave; This is the coming-of-age story of Eyad, a gifted young Israeli Arab boy who is accepted into a prestigious Jewish boarding school in Jerusalem. Isolated and lonely at first, he soon develops close friendships and begins fitting in. As Eyad moves into manhood, he makes impossible decisions about where he will stand – and who he will be – in a divided country. This is a profoundly moving portrait of growing up amidst political and personal conflict over one's identity and being faced with the pressure to conform.



Martha's Vineyard  
African American  
Film Festival



Tribeca Film Institute



Best Actor (Tawfeek Barhom)  
Best Supporting Actor (Michael Moshonov)  
Best Art Direction (Yoel Herzber)  
Best Sound (Itzik Cohen)

With Special Guest, Director  
Lacey Schwartz



Underwritten by  
Debby Goldman

Underwritten by  
Michael Argaman





## THE RETURN

Wednesday, July 15, 11am, JCC Hart Theatre

Director: Adam Zucker, Poland/USA, 2014, 84min, English/Polish w/ subtitles, documentary

Before WWII, Poland's 3.5 million Jews made the country the epicenter of the Jewish world. Today, less than 20,000 Jews live there. Due to the Holocaust and the ensuing Soviet era, Poland's remaining Jews hid their identity from their children. With the fall of communism, a young generation of Jews began learning their long-buried ancestry.

*The Return* focuses on four women in their early 20s who face the unique challenge of trying to create an identity in a vacuum with little knowledge of their heritage.



OFFICIAL  
SELECTION

*Doc NYC,*

*Margaret Mead Film Festival, Boston, Atlanta,  
and Washington DC Jewish Film Festivals*

*Underwritten by*

**Center for Holocaust Awareness and Information**

*of the*



**Jewish Federation**  
OF GREATER ROCHESTER  
[www.JewishRochester.org](http://www.JewishRochester.org)

## SACRED SPERM

Wednesday, July 15, 2pm, JCC Hart Theatre

Director: Ori Gruder, Israel, 2014, 60min, Hebrew w/ subtitles, documentary

Ori Gruder didn't know how to talk to his 10-year-old son about the birds and the bees. At 44, a father of six, and a member of Israel's ultra-Orthodox religious community, he had to choose his words carefully. Or...he could make a documentary which is both an appeal to ultra-Orthodoxy to make sexuality less taboo and a tribute to the community he's chosen.

This acclaimed film is a poignant look at intimacy, sacredness and devotion. Gruder brings his camera into his own home in an honest and vulnerable quest, talking to his family, asking questions of rabbis, educators and therapists, and recounting his own path from secularism to ultra-Orthodoxy. Underlying each moment is Gruder's love for his son and his religion. He credits ultra-Orthodoxy and his rabbinic mentors for helping him find inner peace, and he wonders out loud, "How can you teach your child about the miracles of life if you don't know what comes out of your body?"



WINNER  
Award of  
Excellence

*The Accolade Global  
Film Competition 2014*



**FIRST  
NIAGARA Matinee**



## BENEATH THE HELMET

Wednesday, July 15, 6pm, Little Theatre

Director: Wayne Kopping, Israel/USA, 2014, 89min, English/Hebrew w/ subtitles, documentary/war

*Beneath the Helmet: From High School to the Home Front* is a coming-of-age story which follows the journey of five Israeli high school graduates who are drafted into the army to defend their country. At the age of 18, away from their homes, families and friends, these young individuals undergo a demanding, inspiring journey, revealing the core of who they are and who they want to be.

From the creators of the PBS-featured documentary film *Israel Inside: How a Small Nation Makes a Big Difference*, *Beneath the Helmet* illustrates how these young men and women are defending not only their homes, but also the values of peace, equality, opportunity, democracy, religious tolerance and women's rights. The lessons they learn along the way are lessons that can be appreciated by all.

Underwritten by



ISRAEL BOND  
Development Corporation for Israel  
Member FINRA

With Special Thanks to  
**Josephine and Simon Braitman**  
and  
**Jane and John August**

## 24 DAYS

Wednesday, July 15, 9pm, Little Theatre

Director: Alexandre Arcady, France, 2014, 111min, French w/ subtitles, narrative/drama

In January of 2006, a beautiful young woman walks into a Parisian cellphone shop, looks around, flirts with the sales attendant, and asks for his phone number. Later, she calls him asking to meet. Who could have known that 23-year-old Ilan Halimi was flirting with death? The next time his family hears from him is through a cryptic online message from kidnappers demanding ransom.

Based on real events, this cinematic thriller offers a searing insight into this vicious ordeal, the violent world of the gang, and the harrowing experience of his family waiting and hoping the police will save their son. For 24 days, the police, insistent upon handling the case as a normal for-ransom kidnapping, fail to recognize the anti-Semitic hatred of his abductors.



Boston, Charlotte,  
and Rutgers Jewish Film  
Festivals 2015



San Diego Jewish  
Film Festival 2015



Jerusalem Film  
Festival 2014

Underwritten by  
**Marcia and Gary Stern**



## THE MUSES OF ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER

Thursday, July 16, 11am, JCC Hart Theatre

Director: Asaf Galay, Shaul Betser, Israel, 2014, 72min,  
English/Hebrew/Yiddish w/ subtitles,  
documentary/biography

Isaac Bashevis Singer, the famous Yiddish writer and Nobel Prize winner, wrote with a “harem” of dozens of translators behind him. Beyond simple translation, these women were a vital source of his creativity. The inspiration he drew from them came in many forms, often mixing romance with professional aspirations.

Today, nine remain to tell his story. Intimate, poignant interviews and exclusive archival footage combine to portray the unknown story of an author who charmed and enchanted his audiences, just like he charmed and enchanted his translators.

## HANNA'S JOURNEY

Thursday, July 16, 1:30pm, JCC Hart Theatre

Director: Julia von Heinz, Germany, 2013, 100min,  
German/English/Hebrew w/ subtitles,  
narrative/romance/comedy

Based on a Theresa Bäuerlein novel, *Hanna's Journey* is a provocative and engaging examination of the after effects of the Holocaust on third-generation Germans and Israelis.

Headstrong Berlin business major Hanna's motives for spending several months in Israel working with disabled youths and elderly Holocaust survivors aren't exactly noble. A sharp-eyed careerist, the young German woman figures this charity work will balance her resumé and make it sparkle. What she doesn't count on is Itay, the brusque (but charming) social worker she meets on her first day abroad.

He teases her with off-color jokes about the Holocaust and for being German – all of which she considers ancient history, having nothing to do with her at all. As she reluctantly warms to Itay's insistent flirtations, however, she realizes the hold this history truly has on her.



WINNER  
Best Actor  
(Doron Amit)

Nuremberg Film  
Festival 2014



**FIRST  
NIAGARA Matinee**



## ZEMENE

Thursday, July 16, 6pm, Little Theatre

Director: Melissa Donovan, Ethiopia/USA, 2014, 68min, English/Amharic w/ subtitles, documentary

An inspirational story of hope, love and unimaginable possibilities, this beautiful film follows a spirited 10-year-old Ethiopian girl, Zemene, as she fights to keep hope alive and survive her life-threatening condition of Kyphosis, a severe curvature of the spine.

With no health care in her small rural village of Belessa, Zemene travels to the city of Gondar, where she is told that no medical treatment can save her. By complete chance of fate, Zemene's need for help is unexpectedly met when she crosses paths with Dr. Rick Hodes as she walks past a coffee shop he frequents. Dr. Hodes, Medical Director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, takes Zemene down a new path giving her hope for a full life and future.



*Best Documentary  
Best Cinematography  
Best Editing*



*St. Louis Int'l  
Film Festival*

**With Special Guest, Director  
Melissa Donovan**



**Underwritten by  
Dr. Oren Weiss:  
Rochester Periodontal Group**

## THE FAREWELL PARTY

Thursday, July 16, 9pm, Little Theatre

Director: Tal Granit, Sharon Maymon, Israel, 2014, 93min, Hebrew w/ subtitles, narrative/drama/comedy

Residents of a Jerusalem senior living home struggle with a decision to help a dying friend end his life with dignity in this surprisingly witty and tender take on the topic of euthanasia.

Devoted couple Levana and Yehezkel are devastated to learn their dear friend has a terminal illness and wants to end his life. An amateur inventor, Yehezkel decides to construct a device that will allow the residents to take matters into their own hands by self-administering a fatal dose of drugs. He recruits support from a retired veterinarian, experienced in putting animals to sleep, and a former cop, who he hopes will keep them out of trouble with the law.

As rumors about the machine leak out in the senior community, more appeals arise for a peaceful, painless death, raising tricky ethical questions and emotional complications.

**Underwritten by**



**BRIGHTON MEMORIAL  
CHAPEL, INC.**

JCC AMES AMZALAK  
**ROCHESTER**  
*International*  
JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

**RIJFF supports Rochester's  
fantastic film festivals!**



June 16 & 30, 2015  
[www.reelmindfilmfest.com](http://www.reelmindfilmfest.com)

# IMAGE OUT

THE ROCHESTER LGBT  
FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL

October 8 - 18, 2015  
[www.imageout.org](http://www.imageout.org)

# High Falls FILM FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING  
*Women*  
IN FILM

November 12 - 16, 2015  
[www.highfallsfilmfestival.org](http://www.highfallsfilmfestival.org)

# green topia<sup>®</sup> FILM

spirited  
documentary  
discussion 

April 5 - 9, 2016  
[www.greentopia.org](http://www.greentopia.org)



## HAVANA CURVEBALL

**Saturday, July 18, 6pm, Dryden Theatre**

Director: Ken Schneider, Marcia Jarmel, Cuba, 2014, 60min,  
English/Spanish w/ subtitles, documentary/sports

Mica is a classic young teen: enthusiastic, idealistic, and dreaming baseball. At 13, he is studying for his Bar Mitzvah, the Jewish coming-of-age rite.

An earnest kid, he took to heart his Rabbi's requirement to help "heal the world." Imagining himself a savior of sorts, he launches a grand plan to send baseballs to Cuba, a country with a mysterious pull. He knows only that Cubans are poor and love baseball, and that Cuba saved his grandpa's life.

On a hunch, his award-winning filmmaker parents pick up their camera. They know the U.S. Embargo with Cuba will throw him a curveball.



*Boston Int'l  
Kids Film Festival  
2014*



*Havana Int'l  
Film Festival*

*Underwritten by  
Marc and Jennifer Fleischer  
and  
Barbara and Barry Steinberg*





# SATURDAY NIGHT DOUBLE FEATURE

## ZERO MOTIVATION

Saturday, July 18, 8pm, Dryden Theatre

Director: Tayla Lavie, Israel, 2014, 100min,  
Hebrew w/ subtitles, narrative/drama/comedy

*Private Benjamin* meets *M\*A\*S\*H*, speaks Hebrew, and keeps kosher. Set in a remote desert military base, a platoon of young women soldiers, all Israeli conscripts, serve out their time playing computer games, singing pop songs, and conspiring to get transferred to Tel Aviv, while endlessly serving coffee to the men who run the show. Here's an Israeli film filled with funny, quick-witted, zany women who wield their staple guns like automatic weaponry. If there is a war going on, it's one against boredom, bad uniforms, dopey rules, and doing everything in triplicate. Debut filmmaker Talya Lavie is Israel's answer to Lena Dunham: *Zero Motivation* has had rave reviews and huge audiences.



*Best Director (Tayla Lavie)*  
*Best Actress (Dana Ivgy)*  
*Best Screenplay (Tayla Lavie)*  
*Best Editing (Arik Leibovitch)*  
*Best Casting (Orit Azoulay)*  
*Best Music (Ran Bagno)*

*Best Narrative Feature,*  
*Nora Ephron Prize*

*Underwritten by*  
**Bunny and Mort Skirboll**

## YOU MUST BE JOKING

Immediately following *Zero Motivation*  
(with a 10-minute intermission)

Director: Jake Wilson, USA, 2014, 90min,  
English, narrative/comedy

*You Must Be Joking* is a gut-busting warm comedy with no shortage of emotional outbursts, awkward office dynamics, and dysfunctional families. Twenty-something New Yorker Barb Schwartz (award-winning Sas Goldberg) somehow ended up in a life that kinda...sucks. She has a paralegal job she endures, a drab studio apartment out on on Roosevelt Island, and an overbearing family who never lets her forget that she's still single. When she is reunited with her childhood BFF, ballet dancer Billy (Jake Wilson), she is inspired to turn her life around by revisiting her first love: comedy.

*Underwritten by*  
**Class Action LLC/ Marc Frankel - Constable**

*Community partner:*



THE ROCHESTER LGBT  
FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL



## MACROPOLIS

Sunday, July 19, 10:30 - 11:30am,  
JCC Resource Place

*For children ages 3-7. FREE!*

*PJ Library® goes to  
the Film Festival!*

*Complete a craft project  
and enjoy a snack!*

Director: Joel Simon, UK, 2012, 7min, English, short/family

*Macropolis* is the story of two toys discarded from a factory production line. Coming to life, they rebel and chase the factory delivery van in the hope of rejoining their friends. Lost in the unfamiliar, urban big city, they are overwhelmed by the challenge ahead. By reinterpreting the world that now surrounds them, through their unique perspectives, they begin to utilize everyday objects to find their way back.



*Irish Film and  
Television Awards 2013*

*In partnership with*



## THE DOVE FLYER

Sunday, July 19, 2pm, Dryden Theatre

Director: Nissim Dayan, Israel, 2014, 100min, Judeo-Arabic  
w/ Hebrew and English subtitles, narrative/drama

The story of Iraqi Jews who were forced to leave Iraq has never before been told in the cinema.

Based on the best-selling novel by Eli Amir is this moving story of a family living in the most ancient Jewish community in the world: the Jewish community of Iraq.

Most of the Iraqi Jews in the Bagdad of the 1950s did not want to leave the land where they and their ancestors had lived for thousands of years. Against this background is the coming-of-age tale of 16-year-old Kabi, as he's transformed from a studious lad to becoming one of the central activists in the Zionist underground, thus enabling the immigration of the Jews of Iraq to Israel.



## DOUGH

**Sunday, July 19, 6pm, Dryden Theatre**

Director: John Goldschmidt, UK, 2014, 95min,  
English, narrative/drama/comedy

Jonathan Pryce stars in this warm-hearted and humorous story about an old Jewish baker whose faltering business is inadvertently saved by his young Muslim apprentice.

Widowed and down on his luck, Nat (Pryce) is desperate to save his bakery in London's East End. His customers are dying off, his sons have no interest in keeping afloat the family business, and a hostile businessman has his own greedy plans for the property. In a pinch, Nat reluctantly enlists the help of teenager Ayyash, a refugee from Darfur. The Muslim boy assists with the bakery's daily chores, while selling cannabis on the side to help his struggling mother make ends meet. When Ayyash one day accidentally drops his stash into the dough, the challah starts flying off the shelf, and an unlikely friendship forms between the old Jewish baker and his young Muslim apprentice.

*Underwritten by*  
**Rubens Family Foundation**

## THE LAST MENTSCH

**Sunday, July 19, 8:30pm, Dryden Theatre**

Director: Peirre-Henry Salfati,  
France/Germany/Switzerland, 2014, 93min,  
German w/ subtitles, narrative

Marcus Schwarz, an endearing and resilient man, has denied his Jewish heritage all his life. After surviving the horrors of Auschwitz, he spent a lifetime trying to forget by creating a new identity for himself in Germany.

But when Marcus decides he wants to be buried in a Jewish cemetery, he learns that the rabbis don't believe he's Jewish. With all his family gone and no remaining records – except the faded tattoo on his forearm – his only hope is to return to the Hungarian village where he grew up to try to find proof of his birth. He enlists a young Turkish woman to drive him there, resulting in a journey that will change them both forever.

*Underwritten by*  
**Bernard Schuster CHAI Fund**

*With Speical Thanks to*  
**Jane Schuster**



# CLOSING NIGHT

## SERIAL (BAD) WEDDINGS

Monday, July 20, 7pm, Dryden Theatre

Director: Philippe de Chauveron, France, 2014, 97min,  
French w/ subtitles, narrative/comedy

A bourgeois Catholic family is upended by a succession of multicultural marriages in this hilarious box office sensation - an unabashedly, politically incorrect romantic comedy that pokes fun at the melting pot of modern-day France.

Well-off and well-educated, Claude Verneuil and his churchgoing wife Marie are a conservative couple, but consider themselves open-minded. Their tolerance is sorely tested as three of their four lovely daughters decide successively to marry an Arab, a Jew and an Asian. The last hope for a traditional marriage is dashed when their youngest daughter Lauré announces her upcoming wedding to Charles...



*Underwritten by*  
**Judy and Harold Samloff**

**CLOSING NIGHT PARTY TO FOLLOW!**



# Complete this order form or purchase tickets at [rjff.org](http://rjff.org)

**Due to frequent sell-outs, RIJFF encourages you to purchase tickets in advance!**

**Charge by Phone:** 585-461-2000

**By Mail:** JCC, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618

**In Person:** JCC Main Desk

**Online:** [www.rjff.org](http://www.rjff.org) (A small convenience fee will apply.)

CUT HERE

CUT HERE

CUT HERE

<b>I'D LIKE TO PURCHASE AN ALL FESTIVAL PASS:</b>					<b>QNTY</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>
\$185 / \$170 JCC Member (\$80+ savings) Early admission to all films, including Opening and Closing Night Parties! Guaranteed seating up to 15 minutes prior to show time.						
<b>I'D LIKE TO PURCHASE A FIRST NIAGARA JCC MATINEE PASS</b>					<b>QNTY</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>
\$60 / \$45 JCC Member (8 films for the price of 7) Early admission to all 8 Matinees at the JCC Hart Theatre. Guaranteed seating up to 15 minutes prior to show time.						
<b>I'D LIKE TO PURCHASE TICKETS:</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>JCC MBR</b>	<b>NON MBR</b>	<b>QNTY</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>
Belle & Sebastian	7/12	1pm	\$10	\$12		
To Life	7/12	4pm	\$10	\$12		
Above and Beyond (with Opening Night Party!)	7/12	7:30pm	\$15	\$20		
Deli Man	7/13	11am	\$7	\$9		
Deli Man Film & Deli Box Lunch			\$17	\$19		
God's Slave	7/13	1:30pm	\$7	\$9		
Mr. Kaplan	7/13	6pm	\$10	\$12		
Gett: The Trial of Viviane Amselem	7/13	9pm	\$10	\$12		
The Green Prince	7/14	11am	\$7	\$9		
Anywhere Else	7/14	1:30pm	\$7	\$9		
Little White Lie	7/14	6pm	\$10	\$12		
A Borrowed Identity (based on the novel <i>Dancing Arabs</i> )	7/14	9pm	\$10	\$12		
The Return	7/15	11am	\$7	\$9		
Sacred Sperm	7/15	2pm	\$7	\$9		
Beneath the Helmet	7/15	6pm	\$10	\$12		
24 Days	7/15	9pm	\$10	\$12		
The Muses of Isaac Bashevis Singer	7/16	11am	\$7	\$9		
Hanna's Journey	7/16	1:30pm	\$7	\$9		
Zemene	7/16	6pm	\$10	\$12		
The Farewell Party	7/16	9pm	\$10	\$12		
Havana Curveball	7/18	6pm	\$10	\$12		
Zero Motivation & You Must Be Joking	7/18	8pm	\$15	\$20		
Macropolis	7/19	10:30am	FREE			
The Dove Flyer	7/19	2pm	\$10	\$12		
Dough	7/19	6pm	\$10	\$12		
The Last Mentsch	7/19	8:30pm	\$10	\$12		
Serial (Bad) Weddings (with Closing Night Party!)	7/20	7pm	\$15	\$20		
<b>TOTAL \$ DUE:</b>						
<b>PAYMENT FORM:</b>						
Check: Check enclosed made payable to <b>JCC Rochester International Jewish Film Festival</b>						
Credit Card: <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express						
Card #: _____						
Exp. Date: _____ Security code: _____ Authorized Signature: _____						
Name _____						
Street Address _____						
City _____ State _____ Zip _____						
Phone _____ Email _____						

## OY VEY, IT'S THE CALAMARI SISTERS!

OCTOBER 8-25

**WORLD PREMIERE** When Delphine and Carmela Calamari are hired to cater an event at a Jewish funeral home, there's no telling what they'll whip up in the kitchen. From matzah balls to meatballs and gefilte fish to baccala, the girls try desperately to bridge the cultural gap in the only way they know how — by singing, dancing, and cooking through memorable songs less-than-appropriate for your typical interment.

## CONEY ISLAND CHRISTMAS

by Donald Margulies  
based on "The Loudest Voice" by Grace Paley

DECEMBER 5-20

**EAST COAST PREMIERE** When a young Jewish girl is cast to play the role of Jesus in the school Christmas pageant, her immigrant parents struggle to balance their holiday traditions with their new role as Americans. This new play from Pulitzer Prize-winner Donald Margulies weaves together nostalgia, music, merriment, and multi-holiday pageants into a delightful holiday show for people of all ages and all faiths.

## THE HIT FACTORY 2

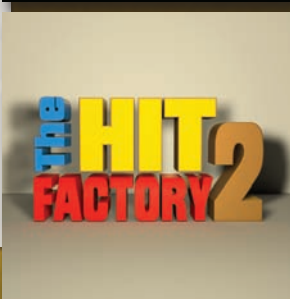
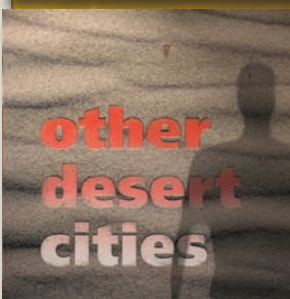
*Brill and Beyond*

FEBRUARY 6-21, 2016

**WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL** The team that brought you last year's sell-out sensation *The Hit Factory* is back with an all-new tribute to American popular music. Using last year's pop-infused "Brill Building Sound" as jumping-off point, *The Hit Factory 2* takes us to the end of that era as singer-songwriters became the norm and performers like Neil Diamond, Paul Simon, Neil Sedaka, Carol King and Bobby Darin became household names.



**39<sup>th</sup> SEASON**  
2015/2016



## OTHER DESERT CITIES

by Jon Robin Baitz

APRIL 2-17, 2016

**AREA PREMIERE** A searing comedy-drama in the tradition of *August: Osage County* and *Bad Jews*, the joys of a family reunion quickly unravel when a prodigal daughter returns to her family's Palm Springs home and announces plans to publish a childhood memoir. As her retired ambassador father, image-conscious mother, rehabbing aunt and ne'er-do-well brother team up to stop her, long-held family secrets continue to be revealed. This 2012 Broadway hit, from the author of *Substance of Fire* and the creator TV's *Brothers and Sisters*, was nominated for a Tony Award® for Best Play and a Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

## AIN'T MISBEHAVIN', the Fats Waller Musical

Music by Thomas "Fats" Waller  
Conceived by Murray Horwitz and Richard Maltby Jr.

MAY 7-22, 2016

**TONY AWARD® WINNER  
BEST MUSICAL**

The Joint will be Jumpin' when the golden age of The Cotton Club and Savoy Ballroom get recreated in this rollicking, finger-snapping, toe-tapping and bawdy tribute to the Harlem Renaissance of the early 1900s. A stellar cast, including Di'ta Monique and Darren Frazier from *The Hit Factory*, sing the songs that made the inimitable "Fats" Waller an international sensation.

# SUBSCRIBE NOW!

(585) 461-2000

[www.jcccenterstage.org](http://www.jcccenterstage.org)

## TICKET INFORMATION: (To order tickets, see ticket order form page.)

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**In Person:** JCC Main Desk

**Online:** [www.rjff.org](http://www.rjff.org) (A small convenience fee will apply.)

### TICKET PRICING:

General Admission Ticket	\$12 / \$10 JCC Member
Weekday Matinee Ticket	\$9 / \$7 JCC Member
Opening Night and Closing Night Ticket (Party included)	\$20 / \$15 JCC Member
All Festival Pass	\$185 / \$170 JCC Member
First Niagara JCC Matinee Pass	\$60 / \$45 JCC Member
Discounts	\$1 off for Students (Advance sale only)

**Advance sale tickets are NOT available at The Little Theatre or The Dryden Theatre. Please call 461-2000.**

**ALL FESTIVAL PASS HOLDER POLICY:** All Festival Pass (AFP) holders are guaranteed seats **up to 15 minutes prior** to show time. RIJFF cannot guarantee seating for late arrivals. AFPs are non-transferable. Please help support the festival by encouraging friends and family to purchase their own tickets. **Limited number available.**

**FIRST NIAGARA JCC MATINEE PASS:** This pass is valid for all seven matinee films shown at the JCC Hart Theatre. All First Niagara JCC Matinee Pass holders are guaranteed seats **up to 15 minutes prior** to show time. RIJFF cannot guarantee seating for late arrivals. Passes are non-transferable.

**WALK-INS DAY OF SHOW:** Per availability, tickets are sold 45 minutes prior to show time at festival venues. If a film is almost sold out, RIJFF will distribute temporary tickets, and if seats become available at show time the temporary ticket can be exchanged for a valid ticket. **RIJFF does not guarantee ticket availability for walk-ins.** Due to frequent sell-outs, we strongly encourage you to purchase tickets in advance.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**SEATING:** Seating is general admission.

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

**PARKING:** **Please allow ample time for 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. Parking is available in the JCC parking lot.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** All Festival venues are handicap accessible.

**FOOD:** All foods served at RIJFF events are in strict observance of the laws of kashrut unless otherwise indicated.

**QUESTIONS:** For additional information please call 585-461-2000 or visit [www.rjff.org](http://www.rjff.org).

## DONOR OPPORTUNITIES AND BENEFITS

Please consider becoming a JCC Ames Amzalak Rochester International Jewish Film Festival donor!

Sponsorship levels available: Visionary \$25,000, Executive Producer \$15,000 and Producer \$10,000.

See [rjff.org](http://rjff.org) or call Lori Harter (585) 461-2000 ext. 237 for full benefit details.

LEVEL	BENEFIT	Recognition in Festival Brochure, JCC Magazine and <a href="http://rjff.org">rjff.org</a>	All Festival Passes	Featured on Promotional Trailer	Invite to Private Donor Event	Underwrite a Film, Reserved Seating	On-site Recognition at Fest. Venues	JCC Magazine Ad
Director: \$5,000		▪	4	▪	4	▪	▪	¼ page
Editor: \$2,500		▪	4	▪	2	▪		
Writer: \$1,250		▪	2	▪	2	Co-Underwrite		
Agent: \$500		▪	2	▪				
Actor: \$360		▪	2					



Jewish Community Center of Greater Rochester  
The William and Mildred Levine Building  
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JCC AMES AMZALAK  
**ROCHESTER**  
*International*  
JEWISH**FILM**FESTIVAL

RIJFF is underwritten by the William and Sheila Konar Foundation and Rubens Family Foundation



*Beneath the Helmet*  
Wednesday, July 15