

JCC AMES AMZALAK
ROCHESTER
JEWISH **July**
FILM 8-16
FESTIVAL 2011
rjff.org



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

film festival PREVIEW event

JCC AMES AMZALAK
ROCHESTER
JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

film, music and details about rjff18

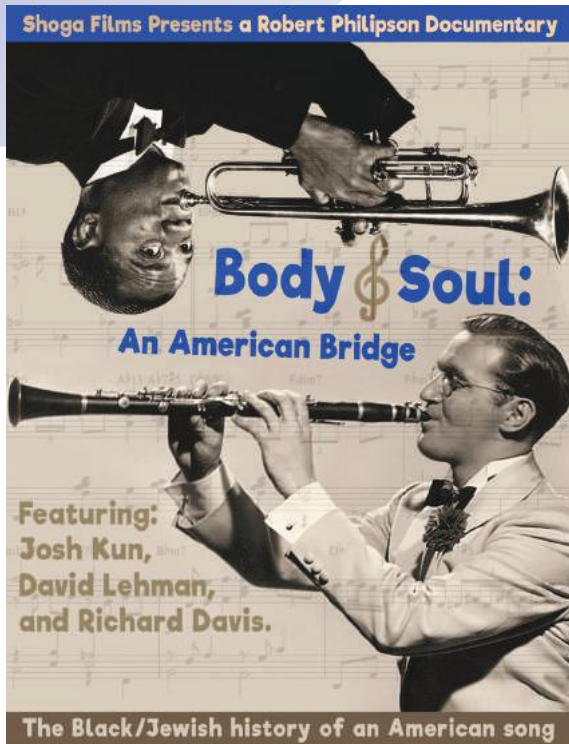
wednesday, june 20 | 7pm

BODY AND SOUL: An American Bridge

Directors: Robert Philipson | Documentary
58 min. | English

Written in 1929 by Jewish composer John W. Green, with lyrics by Edward Heyman and Robert B. Sour, "Body and Soul" played a major role in smashing the color barrier in popular music and remains one of the most recorded songs in the jazz repertoire.

With performances by: Louis Armstrong
The Benny Goodman Trio • John Coltrane
Dianne Schuur • Jack Hylton • Libby Holman



Live music following the film with The Gap Mangione Band!



Gap Mangione and the New Blues Band (Dan Schmitt, Wayne Naylor and Mike Plouffe, with special guest Doug Stone) present an array of jazz and blues music from the swing era represented in the film.

if you go:
\$18 / \$15 JCC Member and RJFF All Festival Pass Holder
For info call 461-2000, ext. 235
JCC Hart Theater



community
partner

Film generously underwritten by Lewis Norry | Music generously underwritten by Terri and Harold Bobry

welcome

This year we celebrate the 18th year of the JCC Ames Amzalak Rochester Jewish Film Festival (RJFF) underwritten by the William and Sheila Konar Foundation and Rubens Family Foundation. Born of the desire to bring Jewish-themed film to Rochester, the birthplace of film, our Jewish film festival has turned into something we could not have imagined. With more than 70 generous donors, 16 community partners and more than 6,500 loyal filmgoers, we look to Year 18 with great excitement.

This year's collection of 29 films includes films from 14 countries with eight from Israel. Happy 70th Birthday Israel! Several new events have been added this year: a pre-season film, BODY AND SOUL, followed by live music from The Gap Mangione Band, a family Dive-In-Movie at the JCC Bobry Family Pool, "Havdalah at the Mansion" and a special tribute to the founder of the Rochester Jewish Film Festival (see below).

On behalf of the hard-working JCC Ames Amzalak Rochester Jewish Film Festival committee, we thank you and welcome you to RJFF18.

Rebecca Klymn, Chair

Andrea Miller, Director



JCC AMES AMZALAK ROCHESTER JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL CARL LASKY AUDIENCE FAVORITE AWARD



new!

If you knew Carl Lasky, of blessed memory, you loved him. He was a gentleman, a kind soul and a film fan like none other. In 1999 when David Jacobs (former JCC Executive Director) asked

Carl if he'd like to help establish a Jewish film festival in Rochester, his reply was quick, enthusiastic and generous. Carl loved the Film Festival and we loved him. And so, it is with great pleasure that the JCC Ames Amzalak Rochester Jewish Film Festival will honor Carl by naming its annual audience film favorite awards in his memory.

Carl Lasky passed away in 2009 at the age of 90. May his memory be for a blessing.

The Carl Lasky Audience Film Favorite Awards (documentary and narrative) are decided by audience votes following each screening.



ON THE COVER: "20•ח" is 2018

יח is the number 18 in Hebrew and means "life"

thank you!

The JCC Ames Amzalak Rochester Jewish Film Festival gratefully acknowledges its generous 2018 supporters. (This listing refers to gifts received as of May 8, 2018)

visionary \$25,000

William and Sheila Konar Foundation
Rubens Family Foundation

director \$5,000+

Sherry and Richard
Goldstein



Jewish Senior Life



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Lewis Norry

Stacey and Marc Saiontz and Sammy and Jeanne Feldman

Judy and Harold Samloff

Marcia Stern

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in honor of Hillel Community Day School



agent \$1,500+

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lead actor \$500+

Anonymous
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Sharon Kovalsky and Jerry Jacobs
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actor \$360+

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WXXI

in-kind support



special thanks to:

Marc Cataldi, Bill Donahue and the JCC Main Desk Staff, Allen Buell and the Dryden Theatre Staff, Ellen Comisar, Jessica Kaufman of the Eastman School of Music, post-film moderators and guests, and the generous volunteers who help make it all happen.

RJFF COMMITTEE CHAIR

Rebecca Klymn

2018 RJFF COMMITTEE (see photo below)**TOP ROW:**

Rebecca Klymn, Laura Kaufman,
Maddy Rubens, Michal Spivak, Andrea Miller,
Marcia Stern, Susan Mandl, Ruth Cowing,
Mike Silverstein, Bonnie Abrams

BOTTOM ROW:

Rona Litt, David Cyrkin, Elliot Fix, Denise Cyrkin

NOT PICTURED:

Michal Benita-Weiss, Stuart Hanau, Les Katzel,
Sid Rosenzweig, Rita Rudnick

RJFF INTERIM DIRECTOR (August-March)

Ruth Cowing

RJFF DIRECTOR

Andrea Miller

JCC CULTURAL ARTS ASSISTANT

Marc Cataldi

JCC CULTURAL ARTS DIRECTOR

Ralph Meranto

JCC PRESIDENT

Richard Gray

JCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Arnie Sohinki

rjff mission

The Louis S. Wolk Jewish Community Center of Greater Rochester established the Ames Amzalak Rochester Jewish Film Festival (RJFF) 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 all 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.

rjff.org

Join the conversation on [social media](#)! We'll share exclusive film updates, festival information, ticket giveaways and more.

 ROCHESTERJEWISHPHILMFESTIVAL

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2018 calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8 - July DRYDEN 1pm ☺ The Twinning Reaction 3:30pm ☺ SHORTS PROGRAM 7:30pm Sammy Davis, Jr. and Opening Night Party	9 JCC 11am The Last Resort 1:30pm The Testament DRYDEN 6pm ☺ The Essential Link 8:45pm An Act of Defiance	10 JCC 9:30am Shalom Sesame 11am The Invisibles 1:30pm Shalom Bollywood DRYDEN 6pm ☺ Futures Past 9pm Bye Bye Germany	11 JCC 11am My Mother's Lost Children 1:30pm Humor Me DRYDEN 6pm ☺ Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds 9pm The Exception	12 JCC 11am Shelter 1:30pm A Bag of Marbles JCC - Pool 5:30pm Prince of Egypt DRYDEN 6pm The Last Suit 8:30pm Itzhak	13 Shabbat Shalom!	14 DRYDEN 7:30pm Budapest Noir 9:40pm Havdalah at the Mansion 10pm Love, Gilda

SUNDAY	MONDAY
15 DRYDEN 3pm The Museum 6pm ☺ Keep the Change 9pm The Cakemaker	16 DRYDEN 7pm ☺ Heading Home and Closing Night Event

 GUEST/VISITING FILMMAKER

index:

Act of Defiance	11
Bag of Marbles, A	17
Budapest Noir.....	20
Bye Bye Germany	14
Cakemaker, The	23
Good Thoughts, Good Words.....	16
Essential Link, The	11
Exception, The	16
Futures Past	14
Heading Home.....	24
Humor Me.....	15
Invisibles, The.....	13
Itzhak	19
Keep the Change.....	23
Last Resort	10
Last Suit, The	18
Love, Gilda	21
Museum, The.....	22
My Mother's Lost Children.....	15
Prince of Egypt.....	18
Sammy Davis, Jr.	9
Shalom Bollywood.....	13
Shalom Sesame	12
Shelter.....	17
SHORTS PROGRAM	8
116 Cameras	
The Number on Great-Grandpa's Arm	
Through the Eye of the Needle	
Testament, The	10
Twinning Reaction	8

festival venues:



Alfred and Ida Hart Theater
1200 Edgewood Avenue



900 East Avenue

NOTE: The Little Theatre is under renovation this summer. We wish them well and look forward to 2019.

opening film


Sunday, July 8 | 1pm | Dryden Theatre

The Twinning Reaction

Director: Lori Shinseki | Documentary | USA | 2017
55 min. | English



How would you feel if, as an adult, you discovered you had an identical twin? That's what happened to the children involved in the infamous 1960s Neubauer-Bernard study of "nature vs. nurture." Jewish twins given up for adoption were deliberately placed in separate homes and neither they nor their adoptive parents were told about the other twin. This deeply disturbing exposé of arrogant, unscrupulous science features several reunited siblings who at last understand why they always felt "something missing" from their lives.

 POST-FILM Q&A with Director Lori Shinseki. Moderated by Linda Moroney, Festival Director and Programmer for the One Take Film Festival and Monthly Documentary Series

community partners



*Generously underwritten by LP Wolch, CPA's, P.C.:
Lorraine Wolch and Donald Onimus*

new! shorts program

Sunday, July 8 | 3:30pm | Dryden Theatre

*Please note: There will be no breaks between films.

Through the Eye of the Needle

Director: Nina Shapiro-Perl | USA | 2011 | 30 min. | English



Esther Nisenthal Krinitz was 15 in 1942 when the war came to her Polish village. She remembers every detail through a series of exquisitely embroidered fabric collages.

Her art is an eyewitness account of tragedy and healing.

community partner



"The Fabric of Survival"
The Art of Esther Nisenthal Krinitz
August 17 - December 2, 2018
Memorial Art Gallery

Generously underwritten by Mona and Mark Kolko

116 Cameras

Director: Davina Pardo | USA | 2017 | 16 min. | English



Eva Schloss, stepsister of Anne Frank, has told her story of wartime courage to schoolchildren. Now, she will use innovative technology to preserve that story. Considered for a 2017 Academy Award.


The Number On Great-Grandpa's Arm

Director: Amy Schatz | USA | 2017 | 19 min. | English



When 10-year-old Elliott asks his 90-year-old great-grandfather, Rochesterian Jack Feldman, about the number tattooed on his arm, he sparks an intimate

conversation. Jack's story comes to life in this endearing documentary. Produced by HBO.

 POST-FILM Q&A with *four generations* of the Feldman Family: Jack Feldman, Sammy Feldman, Stacey Saiontz, Jared Saiontz and Elliott Saiontz

Generously underwritten by Stacey and Marc Saiontz and Jeanne and Sammy Feldman

opening night

Sunday, July 8 | 7:30pm | Dryden Theatre

Sammy Davis, Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me

Director: Sam Pollard | Documentary | USA | 2018 | 99 min. | English

A star of stage and screen and a member of the legendary Rat Pack, Sammy Davis, Jr. broke racial barriers, and paid a heavy price for it. Defying societal norms concerning interracial romance, religion and political affiliation, Davis courted controversy many times, always with grace and honesty. Filmmaker Sam Pollard explores all the complexities of Davis, whose career spanned several phases of American show business. Featuring new interviews with a host of show business luminaries including Billy Crystal, Norman Lear, Jerry Lewis and Whoopi Goldberg, this delightful film is loaded with dazzling footage of Davis as dancer, singer and impressionist.

community partner

Generously underwritten by Rubens Family Foundation



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER



Monday, July 9 | 11am | JCC Hart Theatre

The Last Resort

Director: Dennis Scholl, Kareem Tabsch
Documentary | USA | 2018 | 70 min. | English



Not that long ago, Miami Beach was home to America's largest colony of Jewish retirees. **THE LAST RESORT** tells the almost forgotten story of the rise, fall and rise again, of this sunburned paradise from the first influx of Jews after WWII to their "second exodus" in the 1980s-90s. But it also tells the story of Andy Sweet and Gary Monroe, two young, ambitious, gifted photographers determined to capture images of the aging Jewish community before it disappeared. Today, those images are both invaluable historical records and magnificent works of visual art. **THE LAST RESORT** is nostalgic, informative and immensely appealing.



Monday, July 9 | 1:30pm | JCC Hart Theatre



The Testament (Ha'edut)

Director: Amichai Greenberg | Narrative | Austria, Israel
2018 | 94 min. | English, German, Hebrew, Yiddish
(w/ subtitles)



An Israeli researcher is locked in a legal battle against powerful forces eager to keep an old war crime buried. His search for evidence leads him to testimony by his own mother, testimony that reveals a secret that shatters his own sense of identity. **THE TESTAMENT** is not about the war but about what it means to be Jewish, to be religious, and to be part of a family. And for Yoel, the researcher committed to discovering "the truth," it is about what "truth" actually means. Suspenseful, powerful and intensely thought-provoking, **THE TESTAMENT** is a film not easily forgotten.



Generously underwritten by
Barbara and Marvin Gray

KeyBank  **MATINEE FILMS**

Monday, July 9 | 6pm | Dryden Theatre


The Essential Link: The Story of Wilfrid Israel



Director: Yonatan Nir | Documentary | Israel | 2016
71 min. | Hebrew, German (w/ subtitles)



Most of us have heard of the Kindertransport, the program that saved thousands of Jewish children during the WWII. But few have heard of a key player in its success, Wilfrid Israel, a wealthy Jewish businessman and owner of Berlin's largest department store in the 1930s. Although Israel knew some of the 20th Century's most influential people, including Albert Einstein, he seems to have vanished from history. Filmmaker Yonatan Nir set out to discover why, and the quest quickly became surprisingly personal. A history lesson in the shape of a mystery, THE ESSENTIAL LINK is a riveting experience.

 POST-FILM Q&A with Filmmaker Ophir Baer and Kindertransport survivor Ruth Bernard. Moderated by Bonnie Abrams - Director of Center for Holocaust and Information (CHAI) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester

Generously underwritten by



ISRAEL BONDS

Monday, July 9 | 8:45pm | Dryden Theatre

An Act of Defiance

Director: Jean van de Velde | Narrative | Netherlands
2018 123 min. | English, Afrikaans (w/ subtitles)



A gripping historical drama about the apartheid era in South Africa, AN ACT OF DEFIANCE tells the true story of Bram Fischer, a Jewish lawyer, and his struggle to defend Nelson Mandela and nine other resistance leaders against charges of conspiracy to commit sabotage, charges that can carry the death penalty. But Fischer has a dangerous secret that threatens the defense and his life. AN ACT OF DEFIANCE deftly combines a nail-biting political thriller with intricate courtroom maneuvering while paying tribute to the legendary figures who fought to end apartheid.



Generously underwritten by
Marcia Stern

THE PATH TO TOTAL WELLNESS STARTS AT THE JCC.



CONNECTION



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RESTORATION

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jccrochester.org

Tuesday, July 10 | 9:30am | JCC Hart Theatre

Shalom Sesame: Let's Do a Mitzvah

Director: Sesame Workshop | 2011 | 55 min.



Everyone lends a helping hand on Sesame Street and Grover is invited to a Bar Mitzvah in Jerusalem!

The JCC Wolk Children's Center goes to the movies!

Calling all bubbies, zaydes, moms, dads, aunts, uncles and special friends of the JCC Wolk Children's Center! You are invited to join your children at the movies.

PLEASE NOTE: Only those who have pre-registered with their Wolk Children's Center child will be admitted.

FREE Please register by calling Wolk Children's Center at 461-2000, ext. 272. All Festival Passes are not valid for this event.



Tuesday, July 10 | 11am | JCC Hart Theatre

The Invisibles *(Die Unsichtbaren)*

Director: Claus Räfle | Narrative
Germany | 2017 | 110 min. | German (w/ subtitles)



In June 1943, the German government famously declared Berlin “judenfrei”—free of Jews. But there were still 7,000 Jews living in hiding in the German capital. In this extraordinary film, Claus Räfle tells the true story of four of the 1,700 survivors who hid in plain sight throughout the war. THE INVISIBLES uses a hybrid of documentary and highly accomplished dramatizations that render the harrowing story even more astonishing.

NOTE: Among the survivors featured in the film is Ruth Arndt Gumpel, sister of Erich Arndt. Erich was a local survivor who devoted his time to telling his story at Rochester-area schools. His story is part of the new JCC CenterStage production, *Survivors*.

community partner



Generously underwritten by
Dr. Jocelyn Hicks-Brody

Tuesday, July 10 | 1:30pm | JCC Hart Theatre

Shalom Bollywood: The Untold Story of Indian Cinema

Director: Danny Ben-Moshe | Documentary | Australia,
India | 2018 | 76 min. | English, Hindi (w/ subtitles)



When Indian cinema began 100 years ago, it was taboo for Hindu and Islamic women to perform on screen, so Indian Jewish women, who were more liberal and progressive, took on female lead roles and then dominated the movies for decades. SHALOM BOLLYWOOD celebrates the all singing, all dancing history of the world’s largest film industry. It reveals the unlikely story of the 2,000-year-old Indian Jewish community and its formative place in shaping the world’s largest film industry.

NOTE: In 2017 the George Eastman Museum acquired the world’s largest collection of contemporary Indian cinema held by a museum or film archive. The collection consists of 775 prints representing 597 film titles, all in 35mm format, made between 1999 and 2013.

community partner



KeyBank  MATINEE FILMS

Tuesday, July 10 | 6pm | Dryden Theatre

Futures Past

Director: Jordan Melamed | Documentary
USA | 2016 | 89 min. | English



Commodity trader turned filmmaker Jordan Melamed returns to his former life as the Chicago trading pits are threatened with extinction. Open outcry, the 150-year-old tradition of traders shouting out their orders, is being silenced by computer trading. Jordan's father, Leo Melamed, is the chairman emeritus of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the man responsible for changing the way the world trades. As Jordan gives us a crash course in the secret code on the trading floor, a long-dormant battle between father and son erupts, echoing the shouting in the pits. Jordan is determined to heal the wounds with his father before the pits are silenced forever.

 POST-FILM Q&A with Director Jordan Melamed

Generously underwritten by



Tuesday, July 10 | 9pm | Dryden Theatre

Bye Bye Germany

(Auf Wiedersehen Deutschland)

Director: Sam Garbarski | Narrative | Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg | 2017 | 101 min. | English, German (w/ subtitles)



German star Moritz Bleibtreu is a defiant Holocaust survivor looking to strike it rich in postwar Frankfurt in *BYE BYE GERMANY*, a brisk, polished drama tempered with bittersweet humor. Though haunted by memories of his family, hustler David Bermann (Bleibtreu) is determined to eke out a living in his battle-scarred homeland. With a jaunty klezmer-style score and Yiddish-inflected dialogue, this fresh historical perspective is an utterly engaging salute to European Jews who chose to tough-out painful memories and reclaim their lives.

Adult content



*Generously underwritten by
Futerman Supporting Foundation:
Sara Futerman, Rina and Danny Chessin,
Daphne Futerman and Ira Jevotovsky, and
Eli and Peggy Futerman*

Wednesday, July 11 | 11am | JCC Hart Theatre

My Mother's Lost Children

Director: Danny Ben-Moshe | Documentary
Australia | 2017 | 95 min. | English



Sprawling across four continents, MY MOTHER'S LOST CHILDREN tells the extraordinary, truth-is-stranger-than-fiction family story of Melbourne filmmaker Danny Ben-Moshe (SHALOM BOLLYWOOD). Growing up in the Yiddish-speaking East End of London, Ben-Moshe's mother, Lillian, was 15 when she met and married Raymond, a charismatic Iranian Jew. After the birth of two children, her life took a tragic turn. Eager to discover the truth, Ben-Moshe and his family embark on a remarkable journey from Australia to England and finally Iran as they attempt to unravel the dense web of secrets and put the past to rest.



Wednesday, July 11 | 1:30pm | JCC Hart Theatre

Humor Me

Director: Sam Hoffman | Narrative
USA | 2017 | 93 min. | English



A heartfelt father-son comedy about a struggling playwright who is forced to move in with his joke-telling dad in a New Jersey retirement community and learns, as his father often says, "Life's going to happen, whether you smile or not." As Nate gets involved with his quirky, new neighbors and their theater troupe, his relationship with his father is tested in many ways. Featuring Jemaine Clement (FLIGHT OF THE CONCORDS), Elliott Gould (MASH, THE LONG GOODBYE), Bebe Neuwirth (CHEERS) and Annie Potts (GHOSTBUSTERS, PRETTY IN PINK).

HUMOR ME is Sam Hoffman's directorial debut, inspired by his website Old Jews Telling Jokes, which also sparked an off-Broadway play, a bestselling book and a lecture series.

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KeyBank  **MATINEE FILMS**

Wednesday, July 11 | 6pm | Dryden Theatre



Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds: The Conductor Zubin Mehta

Director: Bettina Ehrhardt | Documentary | Germany | 2016
89 min. | English, German, Hebrew, Italian (w/ subtitles)



Born in India, Zubin Mehta has conducted orchestras the world over, but is most identified with the Israel Philharmonic, where he serves as Music Director for Life and the nation's face of cultural excellence. Navigating among nations, his efforts to uncouple politics from the canon of Western classical music have not been without controversy. Filled with stirring performances and interviews with friends, family and colleagues, this globe-trotting biography is a magnificent tribute to an artistic virtuoso and true believer in the international language of music.

After 50 years with the IPO, Zubin Mehta will retire effective October of 2019.

 POST-FILM Q&A with Director Bettina Ehrhardt

community partner



*Generously underwritten by
Debby Goldman*

Wednesday, July 11 | 9pm | Dryden Theatre

The Exception

Director: David Leveaux | Narrative | United Kingdom
2016 | 107 min. | English, Dutch, German (w/ subtitles)



A riveting thriller filled with espionage and romance, THE EXCEPTION follows German soldier Stefan Brandt as he goes on a mission to investigate exiled German monarch Kaiser Wilhelm II (Christopher Plummer). As Brandt begins to infiltrate the kaiser's life in search of clues, he finds himself drawn into a passionate romance with Mieke (Lily James, DOWNTON ABBEY). When the SS comes for an unexpected visit, the stage is set for a breathtaking showdown, as secrets are revealed, allegiances are tested and Brandt is forced to make the ultimate choice between honoring his country and following his heart.

Adult content

*Generously underwritten by
Sharon R. Brodsky and Family*

Thursday, July 12 | 11am | JCC Hart Theatre



Shelter *(Mistor)*

Director: Eran Riklis | Narrative
France, Germany, Israel 2018 | 93 min.
English, Arabic, Hebrew (w/ subtitles)



Two women find themselves trapped in a labyrinth of deception, paranoia and intrigue in this Israeli spy thriller. Naomi, an Israeli Mossad agent, is sent to Germany to protect Mona, a Lebanese informant recovering from plastic surgery to assume her new identity. After two weeks in a quiet Hamburg apartment, the women are soon exposed to a terror threat that is engulfing the world. SHELTER stars Lior Ashkenazi (NORMAN, FOXTROT). Eran Riklis, the award-winning director of LEMON TREE and THE SYRIAN BRIDE, wrote and directed SHELTER based on a short story by the late Shulamit Hareven.

Adult content



Thursday, July 12 | 1:30pm | JCC Hart Theatre



A Bag of Marbles *(Un Sac De Billes)*

Director: Christian Duguay | Narrative
Canada, Czech Republic, France | 2017 | 108 min.
French, German, Russian, Yiddish (w/ subtitles)



This heartwarming adaptation of French author Joseph Joffo's enduring memoir of the same name tells the story of two Jewish boys struggling to survive on their own. At 10 and 12, brothers Roman and Joseph know that their best chance to escape the Nazi roundup is to flee on their own from Paris to Vichy France. Always one false move from tragedy, the boys survive on courage, ingenuity and a bit of cunning. More than anything, it's their brotherly bond that gets them through their ordeals.

Appropriate for
ages 12 and up.



Philadelphia JFF 2017,
Boston JFF 2017, Miami JFF 2018

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Maurice and Susan Zauderer in honor of

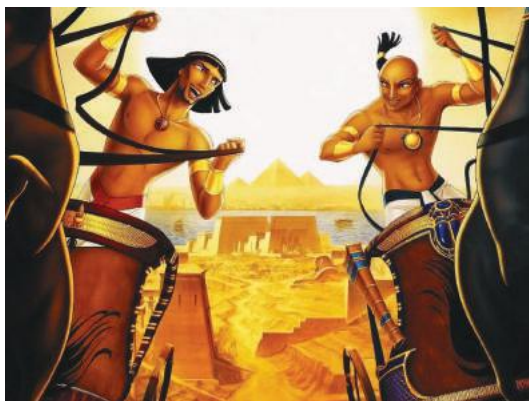


KeyBank  **MATINEE FILMS**

Thursday, July 12 | 5:30pm | JCC Bobry Family Pool

The Prince of Egypt

Directors Brenda Chapman, Steve Hickner and Simon Wells | USA | 1998 | Animation | PG | 99 min. English



DIVE-IN movie

Family Swim & Film at the
JCC Bobry Family Pool

20th Anniversary Screening! The biblical story of Exodus is the focus of this epic animated film. Featuring an all-star cast that includes Val Kilmer and Ralph Fiennes, with performances by Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey.

All ages welcome. Children under 11 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

FREE to JCC Members and guests. **Guests must be accompanied by JCC Members.** Tickets are not required.

rjff **KIDS**

Thursday, July 12 | 6pm | Dryden Theatre

The Last Suit (*El Ultimo Traje*)

Director: Pablo Solarz | Narrative | Argentina, Spain 2017 | 92 min. | German, Polish, Spanish, Yiddish (w/ subtitles)



At 88, Abraham Bursztein is seeing his place in the world rapidly disappear. But Abraham isn't about to fade away quietly. Instead, he plots a secret, one-way trip to Poland, where he plans to find the friend who saved him from certain death at the end of WWII. As he travels from Argentina to Spain, across Germany and finally to Poland, Abraham encounters an assortment of characters. Comedic and poignant in equal measure, *THE LAST SUIT* is a multilingual (Spanish, Yiddish, German and Polish) globe-trotting surprise, a late-in-life road movie with planes, trains and heart.



*Generously underwritten by
Linda Cornell Weinstein and Sherwin Weinstein
and The Skirboll Family Foundation*

Thursday, July 12 | 8:30pm | Dryden Theatre

Itzhak

Director: Alison Chernick | Documentary
USA | 2017 | 83 min. | English

A SOLOIST IN THE *spotlight*



From Schubert to Strauss, Bach to Brahms, Mozart to Billy Joel, Itzhak Perlman's violin playing transcends mere performance to evoke the celebrations and struggles of real life. Alison Chernick's enchanting documentary looks beyond the sublime musician to see the polio survivor whose parents emigrated from Poland to Israel, and the young man who struggled to be taken seriously. Itzhak himself is funny, irreverent and self-deprecating, and here his life story unspools in conversations with masterful musicians, family and friends, and most endearingly his devoted wife of 50 years. As charming and entrancing as the famous violinist himself, ITZHAK is a portrait of musical virtuosity seamlessly enclosed in warmth, humor and, above all, love.

"ITZHAK is a joyous film about a joyous man." Matt Zoller Seitz, RogerEbert.com

community partners



PRE-FILM: Live music provided by Eastman School of Music students.



Miami JFF 2018
Palm Springs IFF 2018
Pittsburgh JFF 2018

Generously underwritten by Sherry and Richard Goldstein

Saturday, July 14 | 7:30pm | Dryden Theatre

Budapest Noir

Director: Éva Gárdos | Narrative
Hungary | 2017 | 94 min. | Hungarian (w/ subtitles)



A beautiful young woman is found dead in 1936 Budapest and no one wants to investigate - except Zsigmond Gordon, a crime reporter who has a gut feeling that things are not what they seem. Gordon's investigation leads him deep into the city's dark underbelly, a shady world of pornographers, fixers, boxing rings, seedy brothels, powerful crime syndicates and Communists. Ultimately, it leads to the highest echelons of power and to an influential businessman who plans to profit from his political ties to Germany's leadership. Standing between the businessman and his fortune however, is the fact that he's Jewish.

Adult content

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

Join Us HAVDALAH AT THE MANSION

Saturday at 9:40pm

Gather on the lawn
outside of the
Dryden Theatre.
All are welcome.

beyond
the
festival

JCC AMES AMZALAK
ROCHESTER
JEWISHFILMFESTIVAL

For information about year round
films, follow us on social media
and visit rjff.org.

 ROCHESTERJEWISHFILMFESTIVAL

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Saturday, July 14 | 10pm | Dryden Theatre

Love, Gilda

Director: Lisa D'Apolito | Documentary
USA | 2018 | 84 min. | English

FRESH FROM ITS
2018 TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL
WORLD PREMIERE



An intimate portrait honoring comedy legend Gilda Radner, LOVE, GILDA celebrates the Emmy and Grammy award-winning comedian who became a cultural icon the moment audiences first laughed with her on *Saturday Night Live*'s debut episode. A trailblazer for female comedians, and women everywhere, her impact on the entertainment industry has endured almost four decades. Directed by first-time feature filmmaker Lisa D'Apolito, LOVE, GILDA is told in Radner's own words and in her own voice through journal entries, never-before-heard audio recordings and interviews with friends and those inspired by her, among them: Bill Hader, Amy Poehler, Chevy Chase, Laraine Newman, Lorne Michaels and Alan Zweibel. The movie captures a complex woman who lived her life with an exuberant and joyful spirit even as she battled demons and cancer. Radner continues to inspire people to stay positive and to keep laughing no matter what challenges life brings.

community partner



Generously underwritten by



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High Falls
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GEORGE EASTMAN MUSEUM THE 4th
NITRATE PICTURE SHOW
DRYDEN THEATRE
eastman.org/nitrate-picture-show

ONE FILM TAKE FEST
otff.org


the Reel Mind
a theatre and film series about mental illness
reelmindfilmfest.org

Sunday, July 15 | 3pm | Dryden Theatre

The Museum

Director: Ran Tal | Documentary
Israel | 2017 | 72 min. | English, Hebrew (w/ subtitles)



Director Ran Tal's *THE MUSEUM* takes an unprecedented behind-the-scenes look at Jerusalem's Israel Museum. Tal, one of Israel's most accomplished and creative documentarians, artfully captures moments and details of a day-in-the-life of the museum, introducing us to a diverse range of curators and artists, singing security guards and international visitors, a Haredi kashrut inspector and an American museum director, each with a story to tell. For 18 months, Tal collected footage of the museum's daily routine, assembling it into a cinematic collage. Gorgeously photographed, poignant and wry, the film captures the vitality of the museum and the people inside.

community partner


ROCHESTER
CONTEMPORARY
ART CENTER

Generously underwritten by

Ilana and Merwyn Kroll

and

Dr. Oren Weiss:

Rochester Periodontal and Dental Implants

Sunday, July 15 | 6pm | Dryden Theatre

Keep the Change

Director: Rachel Israel | Narrative
2017 | 92 min. | English



Two adults with autism strike up an unlikely and transformative relationship in KEEP THE CHANGE a wonderfully surprising reinvention of the romantic comedy. David (Brandon Polansky), a high-functioning, upper-class charmer goes to an autism support group at the Manhattan Jewish Community Center, where he falls for vivacious Sarah (Samantha Elisofon). Director and writer Rachel Israel's inclusive and fresh debut is a unique and universal love story full of vibrant characters under-represented in cinema. KEEP THE CHANGE's cast includes actors on the autism spectrum. NOTE: Adult content



POST-FILM: A Skype Q&A w/ Director/Writer Rachel Israel. IN-PERSON: Rachel Rosner, AutismUp and Rachel Kest, Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester

community partners



Generously underwritten by Judy and Harold Samloff

Sunday, July 15 | 9pm | Dryden Theatre



The Cakemaker

Director: Ofir Raul Graizer | Narrative | Germany, Israel
2017 | 105 min. | German, Hebrew (w/ subtitles)



This tender, delicate drama about a closeted love affair unfolds through the eyes of Thomas, a Berlin pastry chef. After Oren, Thomas's married lover, dies in a car accident, Thomas travels to see the life Oren left behind. In this moving debut, director Ofir Raul Graizer explores the connection formed between Thomas and Anat, the Israeli widow of the man whom they both loved. Graizer delicately and gracefully traces the fluidity of desire and sexuality, the bonds forged by shared grief, and the challenges those can present to faith and family.

Adult Content

community partner



closing night

Monday, July 16 | 7pm | Dryden Theatre



Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel

Director: Daniel Miller, Jeremy Newberger, Seth Kramer | Documentary | Israel, Japan, South Korea, USA
2017 | 86 min. | English

A stirring story of sports, patriotism and personal growth, HEADING HOME charts the underdog journey of Israel's national baseball team competing for the first time in the World Baseball Classic. After years of defeat, Team Israel finally ranked among the world's best in 2017 making it eligible to play in the prestigious international tournament.

The roster includes Craig Breslow, Ike Davis, Ryan Lavarney, Josh Zeid and other Jewish Americans from Major League Baseball teams. Most of the Team Israel players have a tenuous relationship to Judaism and have not traveled to Israel before. Their odyssey takes them from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, where they are greeted as heroes, to Seoul, where the team discovers the pride of representing Israel on the world stage.

 POST-FILM Q&A with Director Daniel Miller



Generously underwritten by
The Miller Family: Carolyn Miller, Michael, Deanna and Sophie Miller and Andrea Miller and Dennis Kessler and Susan and Saul Marsh

Presented in loving memory of Marvin Miller, the greatest baseball fan.

community partner



**POST-FILM
BASEBALL
TREATS**



Friends of CSL! HEADING HOME will be shown to campers at CSL while we watch the film at the Dryden Theatre. So, gather your camp friends and join us for Closing Night!

tickets

Charge by Phone: 585-461-2000

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

In Person: JCC Main Desk

Online: www.rjff.org (A small convenience fee will apply.)

CUT HERE

FESTIVAL PASSES:					QNTY	SUBTOTAL	
All Festival Pass \$220 / \$180 JCC Member							
KeyBank JCC Matinee Pass \$65 / \$45 JCC Member							
NEW! PREVIEW EVENT					QNTY	SUBTOTAL	
Body and Soul: An American Bridge Wed. 6/20 \$18 / \$15 JCC Member/AFP Holder							
RJFF18 TICKETS:		DATE	TIME	JCC MBR	NON MBR	QNTY	SUBTOTAL
The Twinning Reaction		Sun. 7/8	1pm	\$10	\$12		
SHORTS PROGRAM		Sun. 7/8	3:30pm	\$10	\$12		
Sammy Davis, Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me		Sun. 7/8	7:30pm	\$15	\$20		
The Last Resort		Mon. 7/9	11am	\$7	\$9		
The Testament		Mon. 7/9	1:30pm	\$7	\$9		
The Essential Link: The Story of Wilfrid Israel		Mon. 7/9	6pm	\$10	\$12		
An Act of Defiance		Mon. 7/9	8:45pm	\$10	\$12		
Shalom Sesame: Let's Do a Mitzvah		Tue. 7/10	9:30am	For Wolk Center families only.			
The Invisibles		Tue. 7/10	11am	\$7	\$9		
Shalom Bollywood		Tue. 7/10	1:30pm	\$7	\$9		
Futures Past		Tue. 7/10	6pm	\$10	\$12		
Bye Bye Germany		Tue. 7/10	9pm	\$10	\$12		
My Mother's Lost Children		Wed. 7/11	11am	\$7	\$9		
Humor Me		Wed. 7/11	1:30pm	\$7	\$9		
Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds		Wed. 7/11	6pm	\$10	\$12		
The Exception		Wed. 7/11	9pm	\$10	\$12		
Shelter		Thu. 7/12	11am	\$7	\$9		
A Bag of Marbles		Thu. 7/12	1:30pm	\$7	\$9		
Prince of Egypt (Dive-In Movie)		Thu. 7/12	5:30pm	FREE JCC Members. No tix. required			
The Last Suit		Thu. 7/12	6pm	\$10	\$12		
Itzhak		Thu. 7/12	8:30pm	\$10	\$12		
Budapest Noir		Sat. 7/14	7:30pm	\$10	\$12		
Love, Gilda		Sat. 7/14	10pm	\$10	\$12		
The Museum		Sun. 7/15	3pm	\$10	\$12		
Keep the Change		Sun. 7/15	6pm	\$10	\$12		
The Cakemaker		Sun. 7/15	9pm	\$10	\$12		
Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel		Mon. 7/16	7pm	\$15	\$20		
Add a tax-deductible donation. Thank you!							
TOTAL							

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PAYMENT FORM:

Check: Check enclosed made payable to **JCC of Greater Rochester**

Credit Card: Master Card Visa Discover American Express

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CUT HERE

MEETS

for the grown ups

MONKEY BUSINESS: THE ADVENTURES OF CURIOUS GEORGE'S CREATORS

Director: Ema Ryan Yamazaki | Narrator: Sam Waterston | USA | 2017 | 81 min. | English

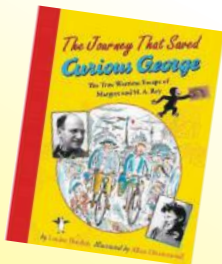


MONKEY BUSINESS is the touching story about Hans and Margret Rey, who fled Nazi Germany carrying the yet-to-be-published manuscript with them.

for young-at-heart viewers

CURIOUS GEORGE

Director: Matthew O'Callaghan
 USA 2006 | Animation | G
 87 min. | English



An oddball museum employee looks after his pet monkey, an inquisitive and wonderful creature, whose enthusiasm often gets the best of him.

community partner



2018-19 Season of Game Changers



Dogfight, The Musical

From the Award-Winning Team behind *La La Land* and *Dear Evan Hansen*
 Area Premiere • July 22-19



Becoming Dr. Ruth

The untold story of the remarkable woman who became America's favorite sex therapist
 Area Premiere • Oct. 7-21



The Legend of Georgia McBride

Elvis HAS left the building! A comedy with music.
Special appearances by Kasha Davis and Aggy Dune
 Area Premiere • Dec. 1-16



Hit Makers: The British are Coming

From The Beatles to The Hollies, our popular music series explores the legacy of the British Invasion.
 All New Show • Feb. 2-17



Indecent

Paula Vogel's groundbreaking Broadway play with music about a troupe of Jewish immigrant actors in 1923
 Area Premiere • Mar. 30-Apr. 14



Rodgers & Hammerstein's ***OKLAHOMA!***

A fresh look at the musical that set the standard for all musicals
 75th Anniversary Production • May 4-18

festival information

Due to frequent sell outs, RJFF encourages you to purchase tickets in advance!



HOW TO ORDER:

Charge by Phone: 585-461-2000

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

In Person: JCC Main Desk

Online: rjff.org (A small convenience fee will apply.)

TICKET PRICING:

Festival Preview Event	\$18 / \$15 JCC Member and All Festival Pass Holder
General Admission Ticket	\$12 / \$10 JCC Member
Weekday Matinee Ticket	\$9 / \$7 JCC Member
Opening Night and Closing Night Ticket	\$20 / \$15 JCC Member
All Festival Pass	\$220 / \$180 JCC Member
KeyBank Weekday Matinee Pass	\$65 / \$45 JCC Member
Groups 10+ (Contact film@jccrochester.org or call 585-461-2000, ext. 235)	

Note: Advance sale tickets are not available at the Dryden Theatre.

ALL FESTIVAL PASS: Valid for all RJFF films unless noted in program. Early access to the theater. Seating guaranteed up to 15 minutes prior to show time. **All Festival Passes are non-transferable. Limited number available.**

KeyBank WEEKDAY MATINEE PASS: Valid for all matinee films shown at the JCC Hart Theatre. Early access to the theater. Seating guaranteed up to 15 minutes prior to show time. KeyBank Weekday Matinee Passes are non-transferable.

WALK-INS DAY OF SHOW: Per availability, tickets are sold 45 minutes prior to show time at festival venues. Due to frequent sellouts, we strongly encourage you to purchase tickets in advance.

RUSH LINE: Due to the popularity of some films, advance ticket sales may be stopped. In these cases, tickets can be purchased through the RUSH LINE at the theater on the day of that film. Prior to the start of the screening, if seats are available, those waiting in the RUSH LINE will be sold tickets to enter the theater. The RUSH LINE begins forming 45 minutes prior to the start of the film.

PARKING: Please allow ample time for parking. Parking is available in the main parking lots of both venues. For the Dryden Theatre, spaces along East Avenue and side streets are also available.



SEATING: Seating is general admission.

ACCESSIBILITY: Festival venues are handicap accessible. Hearing Assistance is available at each venue's box office. Films in English do not have subtitles.



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.

FOOD: All food served by RJFF is in observance with the laws of kashrut unless otherwise indicated.

QUESTIONS: For additional information please call 585-461-2000 or visit rjff.org.

DONOR OPPORTUNITIES

Ticket sales alone do not support the Festival. Please consider becoming a JCC Ames Amzalak Rochester Jewish Film Festival supporter. Contact Andrea Miller at amiller@jccrochester.org or (585) 461-2000, ext. 237.



Jewish Community Center of Greater Rochester
The William and Mildred Levine Building
1200 Edgewood Avenue | Rochester, New York 14618
jccrochester.org

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THE NUMBER ON GREAT-GRANDPA'S ARM

Opening Day SHORTS PROGRAM, July 8
(Pictured below: Jack Feldman and Elliott Saiontz)

produced by



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