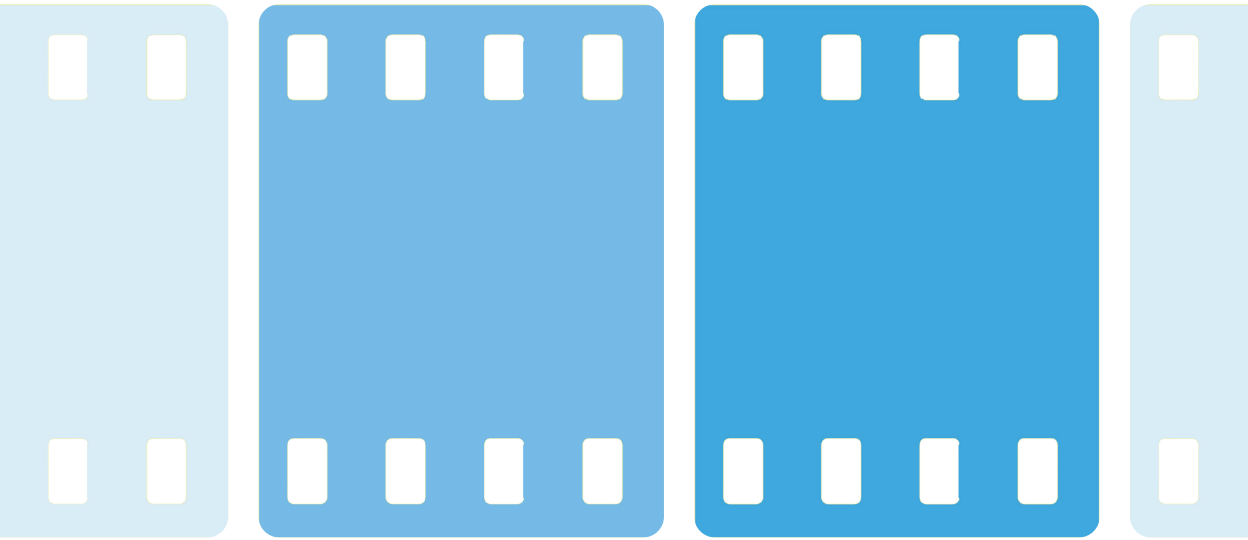


The arts are back!



august 1–8, 2021
rjff.org

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

welcome

(we missed you)

Welcome to our 2021 hybrid festival. In an effort to meet everybody's needs, RJFF is offering films several ways:

virtual

20 virtual screenings, each available for 48 hours

in person

Four in-person venues:

- JCC Hart Theater
- New outdoor Canalside Stage at the JCC
- JCC Pop-Up Drive-In
- Dryden Theatre at the George Eastman Museum

RJFF uses **Eventive** for all festival ticketing. You'll create a free account (it's easy, we promise) and you'll be able to access all your films and tickets in one place. NOTE: Tickets must be purchased online.

three ways to buy:

virtual screenings

\$10 individual
\$18 household

virtual pass

\$150
Access all 20 virtual screenings
(not valid for in-person).

in-person screenings

\$10
\$25 per car (drive-in)
Due to limited capacity,
purchase tickets early!

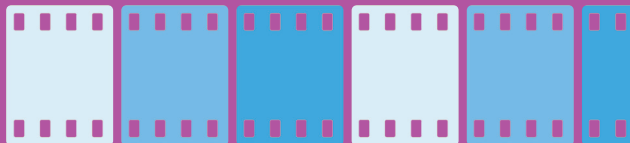
info and
tickets at
rjff.org

COVID-19 safety for in-person

- masks required
- seats 6 feet apart
- no food

We appreciate your patience as CDC guidelines continue to change. Check rjff.org for up-to-date information.

Visit our website, rjff.org for full details and to order tickets. We can't wait to see you at the movies again!





virtual

in person

opening night at the jcc pop-up drive-in

Six Minutes to Midnight

Director: Andy Goddard | Narrative | UK | 2021 | 102 min. | English

In the summer of 1939, influential families in Nazi Germany have sent their daughters to a finishing school in an English seaside town to learn the language and be ambassadors for a future looking National Socialist Party. A teacher sees what is coming and tries to raise the alarm. Dame Judi Dench and Eddie Izzard bring this enjoyably exciting and suspenseful thriller, based on real events, to life. (Mature themes.)

Generously underwritten by the William and Sheila Konar Foundation

Community partner



IFCFilms

in partnership with IFC Films and Tamar Simon from Mean Streets Management

VIRTUAL: Available Sunday, August 1, 11am – Tuesday, August 3, 11am

IN PERSON: Sunday, August 1, 8pm; JCC Pop-Up Drive-In

PRIVATE DONOR SCREENING (\$500+): Sunday, August 1, 5:30pm; JCC Pop-Up Drive-In (Light Dinner Provided. Dinner underwritten by Bernice and Morton Skirboll Family Foundation)

Note: The drive-in screen is LED and can be seen clearly during daylight.

thank you

The JCC Ames Amzalak Rochester Jewish Film Festival gratefully acknowledges its generous 2021 supporters. *(This listing refers to gifts received as of May 10, 2021.)*

Diamond (\$25,000+)

The William and Sheila Konar Foundation
Rubens Family Foundation

Gold (\$10,000+)

A gift made in honor of Florence and Jerry Gordon

Silver (\$5,000+)

Jocelyn Hicks-Brody
Gary and Marcia Stern Family Foundation



Bronze (\$2,500+)

Futerman Supporting Foundation:
Sara Futerman, Rina and Danny Chessin,
Daphne Futerman and Ira Jevotovsky, and
Eli and Peggy Futerman

Debby Goldman

Victoria and Daniel Goldstein

The Families of Laurence & Dennis Kessler
and Kessler Real Estate Development

Susan and Saul Marsh Family Fund

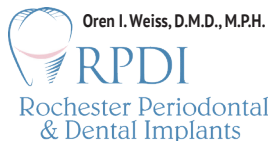
Lewis Norry and Family

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Supporter (\$1,000+)

Betsy and Stuart Bobry

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Family Foundation



BRIGHTON MEMORIAL
CHAPEL, INC.



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Special thanks:



OPENING DAY SHORTS PROGRAM

(both films shown in succession)



Commandment 613: A Sacred Craft

Director: Miriam Lewin | Documentary, Short
USA | 2020 | 23 min. | English

Rabbi Kevin Hale joyfully practices the sacred craft of a Torah scribe (sofer), bringing new life to scrolls saved during the Shoah. His work takes him to communities now entrusted with the scrolls. *Commandment 613* is the final commandment in the Torah: to write the scroll itself. (Rochester is home to several of these scrolls.)



A Father's Kaddish

Director: Jen Kaplan | Documentary, Short
USA | 2020 | 31 min. | English

Steven Branfman used the craft of pottery to create his own personal kaddish (prayer) after the death of his son, a gifted potter who attended Alfred University's renowned College of Ceramics. The film is a potent and moving journey through the universal experience of loss, mourning, and rebuilding a life.

virtual

VIRTUAL: Available Sunday, August 1, 11am – Tuesday, August 3, 11am

Presented in partnership with



Generously underwritten by The Families of Laurence & Dennis Kessler and Kessler Real Estate Development



virtual

When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

Director: Caroline Link | Narrative | Germany, Switzerland
2020 | 119 min. | German (w/ subtitles)

Anna, nine years old, is too busy with schoolwork and playing outside to listen to the grown-ups' talk of Hitler. But when her parents decide to flee Germany before the rise of the Third Reich, her life is upended. Directed by Oscar-winning director Caroline Link and based on Judith Kerr's beloved semi-autobiographical book, the film is a loving tribute to Kerr, who passed away last year.

Generously underwritten by
Erni and Randy Schuster

Community partner
The Center for Holocaust Awareness
and Information (CHAI) at the Jewish
Federation of Greater Rochester

VIRTUAL: Available Sunday, August 1, 11am – Tuesday, August 3, 11am



virtual

Golden Voices

Director: Evgeny Ruman | Narrative | Israel
2019 | 88 min. | Russian, Hebrew (w/ subtitles)

Victor and Raya Frenkel were the golden voices of the Soviet film-dubbing world. In 1990, with the collapse of the USSR, they decide to immigrate to Israel. Funny and touching, *Golden Voices* follows their absurd, amusing, and sometimes painful experiences as they attempt to use their distinctive talents to start a new chapter in their life. (Adult content.)

Generously underwritten by Susan and Saul Marsh Family Fund

VIRTUAL: Available Monday, August 2, 11am – Wednesday August 4, 11am



virtual

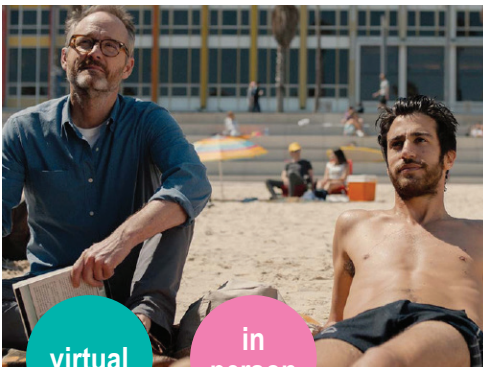
Syndrome K

Director: Stephen Edwards | Documentary
USA | 2020 | 76 min. | Italian (w/ subtitles)

It might just be the only disease to have ever actually saved lives. And it didn't really exist. *Syndrome K* tells the story of three courageous Roman Catholic doctors who saved Jews by convincing the Nazis that these Jews, who took refuge at a Vatican-affiliated hospital, were infected with a highly deadly and contagious disease that the doctors called "Syndrome K." It is a remarkable story that needs to be told. (Mature themes.)

Generously underwritten by
Linda Cornell Weinstein and Sherwin Weinstein

VIRTUAL: Available Monday, August 2, 11am – Wednesday August 4, 11am



virtual

in person

Sublet

Director: Eytan Fox | Narrative | Israel, USA
2020 | 87 min. | English, Hebrew (w/ subtitles)

In this warmly affecting cross-generational melodrama, a middle-aged gay American writer (John Benjamin Hickey) numbed by tragedy finds solace in the company of a younger Israeli man (Niv Nissim). Offering engaging debates on love, sex, and identity in a society bucking its traditional roots, this latest work from writer-director Eytan Fox (*Walk on Water*, *Cupcakes*) transcends its milieu as it ponders conflicting desires with sensitivity and intelligence. (Adult content.)

Generously underwritten by Gary and Marcia Stern Family Foundation

VIRTUAL: Available Monday, August 2, 11am – Wednesday August 4, 11am

IN PERSON: Monday, August 2, 7:30pm; JCC Hart Theater

Presented in partnership with





virtual

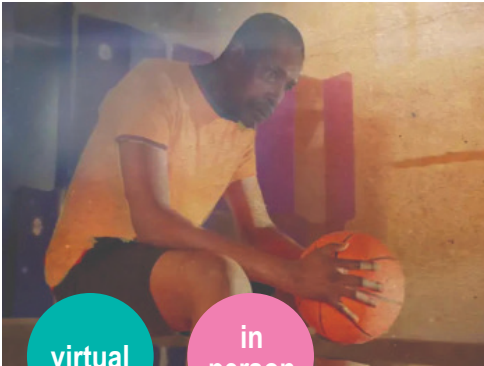
Ma'Aborot: The Israeli Transit Camps

Director: Dina Zvi-Riklis | Documentary | Israel
2019 | 84 min. | Hebrew (w/ subtitles)

The Israeli transit camps of 1948–1952 were a temporary housing solution to accommodate Israel’s surge of immigrants following WWII. The powerful documentary unravels the unexpected variety of stories of the camp residents, discovering and examining many surprising new details, shattering common stereotypes in the current Israeli discourse.

Generously underwritten by Lewis Norry and Family

VIRTUAL: Available Tuesday, August 3, 11am – Thursday, August 5, 11am



virtual

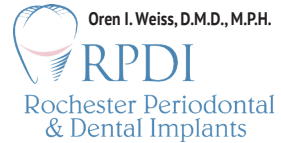
in person

Aulcie

Director: Dani Menkin | Documentary | Israel, USA
2020 | 72 min. | English, Hebrew (w/ subtitles)

From producer Nancy Spielberg comes the unbelievable story of Aulcie Perry, an African American from the violence-filled streets of Newark, NJ, who finds his glory in leading Israel’s Maccabi basketball team to the European championship, only to descend to drugs and jail time before finally finding redemption – all while searching for his biological daughter.

Generously underwritten by



VIRTUAL: Available Tuesday, August 3, 11am – Thursday, August 5, 11am

IN PERSON: Tuesday, August 3, 2pm; JCC Hart Theater



virtual

in person

They Ain’t Ready For Me

Director: Brad Rothschild | Documentary
USA | 2020 | 88 min. | English

This moving documentary tells the story of Tamar Manasseh, the African American rabbinical student who is leading the fight against the senseless killings on the south side of Chicago. The film explores the challenges and motivations of this fearless community leader as she works to prevent more people from being lost to gun violence, one corner at a time.

Generously underwritten by
a gift made in honor of
Florence and Jerry Gordon



VIRTUAL: Available Tuesday, August 3, 11am – Thursday, August 5, 11am

IN PERSON: Tuesday, August 3, 7:30pm; Canalside Stage at the JCC



virtual

Thou Shalt Not Hate

Director: Mauro Mancini | Narrative | Italy, Poland
2020 | 96 min. | Italian (w/ subtitles)

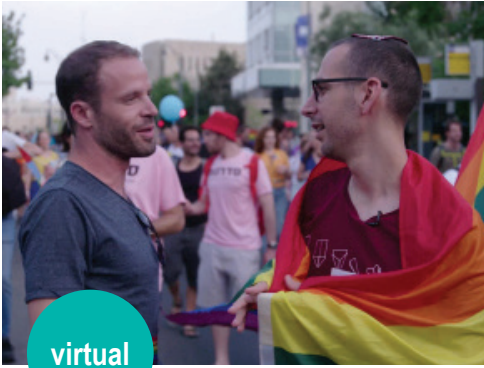
A split-second decision at a traffic accident triggers repercussions for a Jewish surgeon in this gripping, potent drama. Simone (Alessandro Gassmann), a Holocaust survivor's son, rushes to the scene of a hit-and-run. But when he sees a swastika tattoo on the victim's chest, he leaves the wounded man to his fate, posing profound questions about the paradoxes of the human soul in the face of hate.

Generously underwritten by
Barbara and Marvin Gray

Community partner



VIRTUAL: Available Wednesday, August 4, 11am – Friday, August 6, 11am



virtual

Marry Me However

Director: Mordechai Vardi | Documentary
Israel | 2020 | 63 min. | Hebrew (w/ subtitles)

The exceptionally moving film tells the stories of LGBTQ+ people who decided to marry against their own sexual orientation to comply with Torah laws and be accepted into their families and religious communities. With the help of rabbis and psychologists, couples explore this very personal yet profoundly global issue.

Generously underwritten by
Betsy & Stuart Bobry, and Michael Bobry

VIRTUAL: Available Wednesday, August 4, 11am – Friday, August 6, 11am



virtual

in person

Breaking Bread

Director: Beth Elise Hawk | Documentary
Israel, USA | 2020 | 85 min. | English

This delicious documentary tells the story of the first Muslim Arab to win Israel's MasterChef and how she started the A-Sham Food Festival in Haifa where Arab and Jewish chefs collaborate on dishes – a quest to make social change through food. A film about hope, synergy, and exotic fare, *Breaking Bread* focuses on what brings us together rather than what divides us.

Generously underwritten by Jocelyn Hicks-Brody

VIRTUAL: Available Wednesday August 4, 11am – Friday, August 6, 11am

IN PERSON: Wednesday, August 4, 2pm; JCC Hart Theater



PJ Library presents
Big Hero 6
 2014 | 108 min. | Rated PG



When a devastating event befalls the city of San Fransokyo and catapults Hiro into the midst of danger, he turns to his close friends to uncover the mystery.

An evening in celebration of all Essential Workers - our everyday real heroes.



Free. Tickets required via rjff.org.

IN PERSON:
 Wednesday, August 4, 5:30pm;
 Canalside Stage at the JCC



My Name Is Sara

Director: Steven Ortt | Narrative | Poland, USA
 2019 | 111 min. | English and Polish (w/ subtitles)

Based on the astonishing true life-story of Sara Goralnik, a 13-year-old Polish Jew whose entire family was killed by Nazis in WWII, this powerful saga follows Sara as she takes refuge with a farmer and his wife, hiding in plain sight. Sara's survival is nothing short of a miracle. (Mature themes.)

Generously underwritten by
 Susan and Maurice Zauderer in honor of Hillel Community Day School

VIRTUAL: Available Thursday, August 5, 11am – Saturday, August 7, 11am



Shalom Taiwan

Director: Walter Tejblum | Narrative | Argentina
 2019 | 85 min. | Spanish, Taiwanese (w/ subtitles)

This heartwarming, joyous, and uplifting dramedy follows the misadventures of a Buenos Aires Rabbi who travels the world in search of donations to save his synagogue. The charismatic Fabian Rosenthal is compelling as young Rabbi Aaron on a transformational quest in Taiwan.

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

VIRTUAL: Available Thursday, August 5, 11am – Saturday, August 7, 11am



virtual

in person

A Cantor's Head

Director: Erik Greenberg Anjou | Documentary
USA | 2019 | 87 min. | English

A sequel of sorts to our popular 2006 film, *A Cantor's Tale*, this film follows one of the world's cantorial masters as he departs the bimah (stage), prompting questions about the dwindling traditions of Jewish sacred music. Cantor Jackie Mendelson, dubbed "the Michael Jordan of Hazzanut," has inspired legions of admirers worldwide. Mendelson, along with other musical luminaries, explains the magic of this art form and what its loss represents.

Generously underwritten by Judy and Harold Samloff

VIRTUAL: Available Thursday, August 5, 11am – Saturday, August 7, 11am

IN PERSON: Thursday, August 5, 7:30pm; Canalside Stage at the JCC



virtual

On Broadway

Director: Oren Jacoby | Documentary
USA | 2020 | 82 min. | English

With an eye toward Broadway reopening this fall, and our own JCC CenterStage coming back to life, RJFF21 pays tribute with this joyful look at Broadway as it came back from the brink more than a decade ago. Academy Award nominated director Oren Jacoby brings us inside Broadway's stage door for a look at the most groundbreaking and beloved shows with insights from the composers, producers, lyricists, and performers. Get ready to sing and dance once again.

Generously underwritten by Victoria and Daniel Goldstein

VIRTUAL: Available Friday, August 6, 11am – Sunday, August 8, 11am



virtual

Broken Mirrors

Director: Aviad Givon, Imri Matalon | Narrative
Israel | 2019 | 104 min. | Hebrew (w/ subtitles)

Shadowed by a strict, military father, 17-year-old Ariella (Shira Haas, *Unorthodox*) commits a grave error that her father isn't willing to punish her for. Seeking a punishment of her own, Ariella embarks on a dark quest where she will discover a secret to her father's past that will lead them to confront one another. (Adult content.)

VIRTUAL: Available Friday, August 6, 11am – Sunday, August 8, 11am



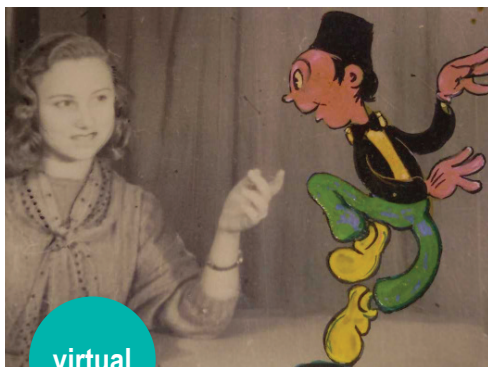
Zoom Havdalah

Saturday, August 7, 9pm

Join us on Zoom to share in a special Havdalah with our RJFF friends and family.

Pick up your RJFF Havdalah bag Friday, August 6 at the JCC.

Details and registration at rjff.org.



virtual

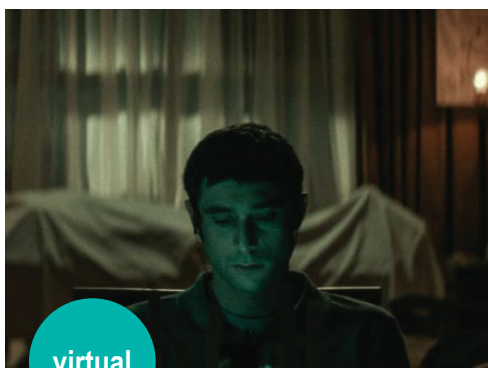
Bukra fil Mish-Mish (If Pigs Could Fly)

Director: Tal Michael | Documentary | Israel, France
2019 | 73 min. | French (w/ subtitles)

Shortly after his beloved uncles' deaths, Didier Frenkel discovers a treasure in their Paris basement: an ancient archive of animated films from Egypt starring Mish-Mish Effendi, the Arab equivalent of Mickey Mouse. His uncles kept this surprising chapter of their lives a secret. Didier begins restoring the films and unveils the story of these Jewish pioneer animators.

Generously underwritten by Debby Goldman

VIRTUAL: Available Sunday, August 8, 11am – Monday, August 10, 11am



virtual

The Vigil

Director: Keith Thomas | Narrative | USA | 2019
90 min. | English, Yidish (w/ subtitles)

The Vigil is a modern Jewish-American horror movie set over the course of a single evening in Brooklyn's Hasidic Borough Park neighborhood. Yakov reluctantly accepts an offer from his former Rabbi to take on the responsibility of an overnight "shomer," fulfilling the Jewish practice of watching over the body of a deceased community member. Shortly after arriving, Yakov begins to realize that something is very, very wrong.

In partnership with Tamar Simon from Mean Streets Management

Generously underwritten by



BRIGHTON MEMORIAL
CHAPEL, INC.

VIRTUAL: Available Sunday, August 8, 11am – Monday, August 10, 11am



virtual

in
person

closing night at the dryden theatre

Howie Mandel: But, Enough About Me

Director: Barry Avrich | Documentary | Canada | 2020 | 89 min. | English

This heartwarming and candid film takes a serious yet very funny look at the life of the wildly inventive comedian and actor. Told through Mandel's own voice and using a wealth of behind-the-scenes access footage, the film examines his extraordinary life and career, as well as his public struggles with OCD, health issues, marriage, family, and more.

Generously underwritten by Rubens Family Foundation

VIRTUAL: Available Sunday, August 8, 11am – Monday, August 10, 11am

IN PERSON: Sunday, August 8, 7:30pm; Dryden Theatre at the George Eastman Museum

GEORGE
EASTMAN
MUSEUM

DRYDEN
THEATRE

Dryden Theatre
900 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607

Carl Lasky Audience Favorite Awards



The JCC Ames Amzalak Rochester Jewish Film Festival honors Carl by naming its annual audience favorite awards in his memory.

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

No more paper ballots!

Vote after watching right in our virtual screening room, or online after watching a film in-person.

your fest, your way

Visit rjff.org for detailed information on talks, guests, and more. RJFF is more than just watching movies!

swag bags

Welcome bags for sale.
Complimentary for donors \$250+.

special guests

Zoom Q&As with filmmakers TBD.

host a watch party

Get creative! View films safely
at home with friends and family.

film talks

Let's chat about the films!
Daily Zooms with RJFF committee.

Details at
rjff.org

Follow us for updates, announcements, and reminders:



@RochesterJewishFilmFestival



@JCCRJFF



@JCCRJFF

Save the dates for next year's festival!

July 17–24, 2022

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.

SUMMER THEATRE AT THE NEW CANALSIDE STAGE!

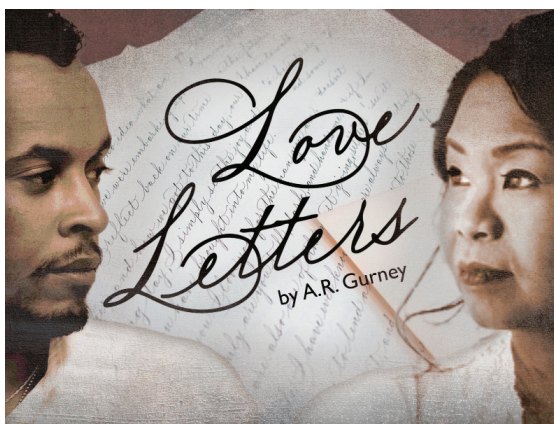


You've Got a Friend

The Music of Carole King & James Taylor

June 5 + 6

Carole King's *Tapestry* spawned four Grammy Awards, a string of hit singles, and still ranks as one of the best-selling albums of all time. Recorded simultaneously with James Taylor's *Mud Slide Slim* and Joni Mitchell's *Blue*, we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of this time in music history with beautiful performances by Jon Lewis, Kelly Izzo Shapiro, and Sarah Eide.



Love Letters by A.R. Gurney

June 27

The lives of two childhood friends are revealed through a lifelong correspondence in this evocative, touching, and frequently funny romantic play. Jay Simmons and Jennifer Ann Galvez-Caton present a fresh interpretation of this beloved classic by seeing it through the eyes of a multi-racial cast and production team. Directed by Esther Winter.



Something Rotten!

The sort-of-Shakespeare Musical Comedy

July 10-18

SummerStage presents Broadway's hottest new musical comedy. Annual support of SummerStage provided by The Louis S. and Molly B. Wolk Foundation in memory of Frumel Ureles.

Details and tickets at jcccenterstage.org

The Canalside Stage at the JCC is made possible by a grant from Dawn Lipson. Please consider a tax-deductible contribution to help live events return to the JCC. Special thanks to Hamilton Audio Visual, Hank Parker's Tent Rentals, New Life Electronics, and the staff of the JCC for helping to bring the Canalside Stage to life.



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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Welcome to the new Dawn Lipson Canalside Stage at the JCC!

We're thrilled to welcome you to our brand new outdoor venue, the Canalside Stage at the JCC!

Watch for a full schedule of concert and theatre events to come soon.

Info at jccrochester.org/canalside

