

23rd JCC Ames Amzalak
Rochester
Jewish Film Festival
July 30
-Aug. 6
2023
rjff.org

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



Welcome!

Welcome to the 23rd JCC Ames Amzalak Rochester Jewish Film Festival.

We are pleased to bring you the finest international films celebrating Jewish culture, highlighting the diversity of Jewish people, and depicting Jewish life from different historical events. Curated by the devoted festival committee, this year's festival has a lineup of 22 feature films and one very special work in progress. It is an impressive lineup of five documentaries and an unprecedented 17 narrative films. In celebration of Israel at 75, nine of our films are from Israel, and our cinematic week will culminate with an Israel at 75 Closing Night Film Party that you don't want to miss.

Once again, the Dryden Theatre at George Eastman Museum and the JCC Hart Theater will be our homes for the week. This year, at your request, we return to making a few of our favorite films available for you to stream at home (see details below). Times have changed, and we are doing our best to change with them.

We are deeply grateful to the loyal and generous donors, attendees, and volunteers who have, year after year, continued to support this event. Your commitment to our festival is heartwarming, and your devotion to the arts is critical.

Thank you. Enjoy the week.



Michal Benita-Weiss, RJFF Chair



Andrea Miller, RJFF Director

V Virtual Films

You asked, and we delivered! Select films will be presented **virtually** the week after the festival, **August 7-14**. \$15 per household. Details and tickets at rjff.org.



Simone Veil,
A Woman of the Century
(p. 7)



Israel Swings for Gold
(p. 13)



First To Stand
The Cases and Causes of Irwin Cotler
(p. 9)



America
(p. 18)

In Person Schedule

Sunday July 30	Monday July 31	Tuesday August 1	Wednesday August 2	Thursday August 3	Saturday August 5	Sunday August 6
Survivors 1pm Dryden	Barren 11am JCC	My Neighbor Adolf 11am JCC	Where Life Begins 11am JCC	June Zero 11am JCC		
Four Winters 3pm Dryden	Jewish Jail Lady and the Holy Thief 1:45pm JCC	Our (Almost Completely True) Story 1:45pm JCC	Encanto (PJ Library) 5:30pm Canalside	iMordechai 1:45pm JCC		Cinema Sabaya 1pm Dryden
Simone Veil, A Woman of the Century 6:30pm Dryden	First to Stand 6pm Dryden	Exodus 91 6pm Dryden	Israel Swings for Gold 6pm Dryden	Closed Circuit 6pm Dryden	America 6:45pm Dryden	Matchmaking 3:15pm Dryden
Opening Night Party!	Farewell, Mr. Haffmann 8:15pm Dryden	March '68 8:15pm Dryden	SHTTL 8:15pm Dryden	One More Story 8:15pm Dryden	Havdalah at the Mansion	Karaoke 7pm Dryden
						Israel at 75 Party!

Watch for these symbols throughout the brochure:



Films from Israel



Post-film Q&As with community leaders



Virtual Films

Reserved Seats

All seats are reserved! Buy your tickets online and choose your seats – no need to arrive early to get your favorite spot.

All Festival Passes Available!

Savings and convenience! See every film for less and enjoy the convenience of reserving seats prior to the public.

Festival Venues



Alfred and Ida Hart Theater
1200 Edgewood Avenue



900 East Avenue



1200 Edgewood Avenue

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THANK
You

The JCC Ames Amzalak Rochester Jewish Film Festival gratefully acknowledges its generous 2023 supporters.
(This listing refers to gifts received as of May 1, 2023.)

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The William and Sheila Konar Foundation
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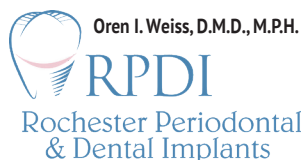
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**This endowment fund was created to
help ensure the future of RJFF.**

Susan Kowal Carp
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Special Thanks

Ellen Comisar, Madeleine Fordham,
and Sid Rozenzweig for their work
on this brochure;
Allen Buell and the
Dryden Theatre staff;
Ralph Meranto, Marc Cataldi,
and the JCC staff;
RJFF ushers and volunteers;
RJFF committee (the best!)

Events
catered by



Sunday, July 30, 1pm; Dryden Theatre

Survivors, The Film

Documentary | 2023 | 60 min.

English | USA | Producer: Bruce Buell

Director: Ray Manard



Survivors, The Play is becoming Survivors, The Film

Bringing Rochester's Stories to the World

In 2018 JCC CenterStage Theatre commissioned playwright Wendy Kout to create a new play based on the lives of 10 Rochester Holocaust Survivors. Since then, thousands of students, local community members, and audiences across North America have experienced this powerful play, which uses the stories and words of our Rochester-area Survivors to combat the normalization of hate and antisemitism in the world.

Join us today for a special sneak preview of the film in progress and hear from the creative team and filmmakers behind *Survivors*.

Survivors was developed with support from The William & Sheila Konar Foundation.

Sunday, July 30, 3pm; Dryden Theatre

Four Winters

Documentary | 2022 | 99 min.

English | USA | Director: Julia Mintz



"Why didn't Jews fight back during the war?" people often ask. The answer, of course, is "They did!" Hiding deep within the forests of Eastern Europe, battling against extraordinary odds, more than 25,000 Jewish partisans blew up trains, burned electric stations, attacked enemy headquarters, and sabotaged the Nazi war machine whenever and however they could. This important documentary features surviving partisans who tell their stories through interviews, family photographs, and rare archival footage. In *Tablet*, Marjorie Ingall calls it, "Surprising, moving...and sometimes shockingly funny." *Four Winters* is a stunning, heartfelt narrative of heroism, resilience, and resistance, celebrating the courage, cleverness, and leadership of the partisans.

Mature content

Underwritten by
**William and Sheila
Konar Foundation**

Community Partner



Sunday, July 30, 6:30pm; Dryden Theatre

Simone Veil, A Woman of the Century

Narrative | 2022 | 140 min. | French (w/ subtitles)
France | Director: Olivier Dahan

OPENING *Night*



Both intimate and monumental, *Simone Veil, A Woman of the Century* celebrates the extraordinary life of one of the century's greatest heroines. Her history as a Holocaust Survivor fueled her lifelong campaign for human rights—and against any form of injustice. To push her agenda, Veil entered French politics and rose to become a magistrate, the French Minister of Health, and eventually President of the European Parliament. Yet she still made room for a life-long love affair with her husband and children. Starring two magnificent actresses (Elsa Zylberstein and Rebecca Marder) as Simone at different ages, *Simone Veil* presents a singular woman who dared to challenge the world to become a better, more humane place.

Mature content

Underwritten by

The Rubens Family Foundation

OPENING PARTY

Enjoy a variety of delicious Parisian treats in the beautiful George Eastman Museum following the film!



Party underwritten by
The Families of
Laurence and Dennis Kessler

Monday, July 31, 11am; Hart Theater

Barren

Narrative | 2022 | 108 min.
Hebrew (w/ subtitles) | Israel
Director: Mordechai Vardi



Faith in G-d and trust in people: How closely are they connected, and how does one inspire or affect the other? These are among the profound questions examined in this intense, insightful drama about a barren, young, ultra-Orthodox Israeli couple who turn to both prayers and people for help. A visiting rabbi claims to be a healer of infertile women, but his treatment leads to crises of belief, conscience, and marriage for the couple and their families. Director Mordechai Vardi based his film on true events.

Mature content

Underwritten by
**Stuart Hanau
and Linda Lohner**

Monday, July 31, 1:45pm; Hart Theater

The Jewish Jail Lady and the Holy Thief

Documentary | 2022
57 min. | English | USA
Directors: Barry Rosenthal, Victor Velle



An ex-con turned Rabbi...A nice Jewish girl who liked bad boys...Together, they've saved thousands of lives. How can two individuals who hurt so many people and made so many mistakes, end up saving *thousands* of lives and changing the addiction recovery community in Southern California... forever? This is *The Jewish Jail Lady and the Holy Thief*, a gleefully profane, remarkably inspiring, and truly special film that follows the dark, troubled, often unbelievable pasts of Rabbi Mark Borovitz and Harriet Rossetto, as their journeys not only lead them to one another, but to the formation of Beit T'Shuvah, a one-of-a-kind Jewish recovery and treatment center known around the globe.

Mature content



Post-Film Q&A
with East House representatives

Community Partner



Monday, July 31, 6pm; Dryden Theatre

First To Stand

The Cases and Causes of Irwin Cotler

Documentary | 2022 | 85 min.

English | Canada | Directors:

Irene Angelico, Abbey Jack Neidik



Anyone with care and courage can change history. *First to Stand* follows Irwin Cotler and his team of young activists as they take on the cases and causes of political prisoners and human rights activists battling the world's most repressive regimes. Cotler began fighting for freedom and justice in law school when he devised a public relations campaign to garner support for Russian refusenik Natan Sharansky. The PR strategy led Mikhail Gorbachev to release Sharansky in 1986. It is a film of high stakes, emotion, and drama, with unprecedented access as Cotler meets with heads of state and argues passionately for the release of his many clients.

Underwritten by

Sharon Brodsky and **Noreen Salerno**

Community Partners

THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

and



Monday, July 31, 8:15pm; Dryden Theatre

Farewell, Mr. Haffmann

Narrative | 2022 | 115 min.

French (w/ subtitles) | France, Belgium

Director: Fred Cavayé



In 1941, when everyone in the Jewish community of occupied Paris is instructed to come forward and identify themselves to authorities, jeweler Joseph Haffmann fears the worst. He arranges for his family to flee the city and offers his employee the chance to take over his store until the conflict subsides. The agreement turns into a Faustian bargain, one that will forever change the fate of all involved. Rich in moral complexity and empathy, with several twists too good to spoil, this is grand, big-screen entertainment at its finest.

More than a dozen Audience Favorite Awards including: 2023 Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, 2023 Cincinnati Mayerson JCC Jewish & Israeli Film Festival, 2023 San Diego Jewish Film Festival, 2022 San Francisco Jewish Film Festival

Mature content

Underwritten by

Erni and Randy Schuster

Community Partner

**CHAI: Center for Holocaust Awareness
and Information of the Jewish Federation
of Greater Rochester**

Tuesday, August 1, 11am; Hart Theater

My Neighbor Adolf

Narrative | 2022 | 96 min.

English | Israel, Colombia, Poland

Director: Leon Prudovsky



What if you thought your neighbor was Adolf Hitler? Polsky, a lonely and grumpy Holocaust Survivor, lives in the remote countryside of Colombia, just after Israel's 1960 capture of Adolf Eichmann. Polsky spends his days in solitude until one day, a mysterious old German man moves in next door. Could it be? Polsky embarks on a detective mission to find the truth. Like an old Hasidic parable, *My Neighbor Adolf* walks the fine line between grief and ridicule, realism and absurdity, clever delicacy and absurd bluntness.

Mature content

Underwritten by

Joyce and Warren Heilbronner

Tuesday, August 1, 1:45pm; Hart Theater

Our (Almost Completely True) Story

Narrative | 2022 | 92 min. | English

USA | Director: Don Scardino



A romantic comedy for anyone smart enough to know that it's never too late to start the great adventure called love. Written by and starring Mariette Hartley and Jerry Sroka, it's the "almost completely true" tale of how these opposites became a real-life couple. She's a tall, classy screen star; he's a short, pudgy voice actor. But they bond over their shared senses of humor and the challenges of aging. This touching and real-life story of what it is to find meaning at any age is directed by Don Scardino (Emmy winner for *30 Rock*) and features hilarious and touching cameos by Bernie Koppell, Tess Harper, Morgan Fairchild, John Rubinstein, Peter MacNicol, Sam McMurray, and others.

Underwritten by

Victoria and Daniel Goldstein



Post-Film Q&A

Love & Aging
with Jewish Family Services
representatives

Community
Partner



Tuesday, August 1, 6pm; Dryden Theatre

Exodus 91

The Untold Story of Operation Solomon

Narrative | 2022 | 90 min.

Hebrew, Amharic, English (w/ subtitles)

Israel | Directors: Micah Smith



In 1991, Israeli diplomat Asher Naim went to Ethiopia, a country then collapsing from famine and a civil war, to arrange the rescue of 15,000 Ethiopian Jews.

As the negotiations dragged on, Naim worried that his mission was mainly a publicity stunt for Israel and the Ethiopian Jews feared they were just pawns in the game. *Exodus 91* takes viewers behind the scenes in this powerful political thriller. By blending dramatic scenes with archival footage and interviews—some real, some staged—director Micah Smith makes us consider the interplay of truth and fiction in film, in diplomacy, and in building national and religious identity.

Mature content

Underwritten by

Mark and Mona Friedman Kolko

and

Paulina and Laurence Kovalsky

Tuesday, August 1, 8:15pm; Dryden Theatre

March '68

Narrative | 2022 | 115 min.

Polish (w/ subtitles) | Poland

Director: Krzysztof Lang



In this gripping, coming-of-age story set amid social turmoil and antisemitism in 1960s Communist Warsaw, students Hania and Janek meet and fall in love. While the young lovers are not interested in politics, they find themselves unable to avoid it when they learn that Jews, including Hania's parents, are losing their jobs in a discriminatory purge and being forced to emigrate. Hania does not want to leave Janek, and the couple soon participates in protests, which climax in March 1968, when they discover that freedom comes at a high price.

Audience Award, 2023 Palm Beach
Jewish Film Festival

Mature content



Post-Film Q&A
with members of
ROC Against Antisemitism

Underwritten by

Samloff Family Fund

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Partner



Wednesday, August 2, 11am; Hart Theater

Where Life Begins

Narrative | 2022 | 100 min.
Italian, French (w/ subtitles) | Italy
Director: Stephane Freiss



Every summer, an ultra-Orthodox French family comes to an idyllic farm in Calabria, Italy for a brief stay to carry out a sacred mission: harvesting etrogim (the citrons used in Sukkot services). Here Elio, a farmer whose wife left him, meets Esther, the rabbi's daughter who is tired of the constraints imposed by her religion. Through this relationship, Esther will explore her freedom to find her path, and Elio will find the peace he has lost. An impressive directorial debut from French film star Stephanie Friess.

Audience Award for Best Narrative, 2022 Jewish International Film Festival Australia; Jury Award for Best Narrative Feature, 2022 Anchorage International Film Festival

Mature content

Wednesday, August 2, 5:30–7:30pm;
Dawn Lipson Canalside Stage

Encanto

Animated | 2021
102 min. | English | USA
Director: Jared Bush, Byron Howard



Join PJ Library and the JCC in a fun evening exploring the Jewish value of *l'dor v'dor*, connecting generations.

Encanto tells of an extraordinary family, the Madrigals, who live hidden in the mountains of Colombia, in a wondrous place called an Encanto. The magic of the Encanto has blessed every child in the family with a unique gift—every child except one, Mirabel. But when Mirabel discovers that the magic surrounding the Encanto is in danger, she decides that she, the only ordinary Madrigal, might just be her exceptional family's last hope.

Bring a picnic dinner. Kosher snacks, drinks, dessert, and crafts will be provided. Free but registration is required.

Underwritten by
Susan and Maurice Zauderer
in honor of



Presented by



Wednesday, August 2, 6pm; Dryden Theatre

Israel Swings for Gold

Documentary | 2023 | 77 min. | English

USA | Director: Seth Kramer, Daniel A. Miller, Jeremy Newberger



In 2021, Israel's baseball team competed in the Olympics for the very first time. With no media allowed in Tokyo's Olympic Village because of Covid restrictions, the players record their own experiences. Mostly newly minted Israelis, they log unexpected battles against anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. Victory for Israel comes on the playing field, though not on the podium. *Israel Swings for Gold* follows the 2018 hit *Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel*, about Israel's Cinderella run at the 2017 World Baseball Classic which played at our festival in 2018.

Underwritten by

**Susan and Saul Marsh
Family Fund**

**The Miller Family
Foundation**



Presented in loving memory of Marvin Miller
and Saul Marsh, two great baseball fans.

Community
Partner





2023–24 Season

**Tuesdays
With
Morrie**

November
5–19
2023

*Love, Loss, &
What I Wore*

December
2–10
2023

HITMAKERS
Rock vs. Disco

February
3–18
2024

**SISTERS
IN LAW**

April
6–21
2024

Beautiful
The Carole King Musical

May
4–19
2024

Subscription packages
available now!

(Single tickets July 5.)

jcccenterstage.org

Wednesday, August 2, 8:15pm; Dryden Theatre

SHTTL

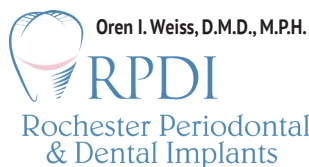
Narrative | 2023 | 109 min.
Yiddish (w/ subtitles) | Ukraine
Director: Ady Walter



Filmed in a single remarkable shot, *SHTTL* presents a day in the life of a Jewish village before it disappears. It is the story of the inhabitants of a Yiddish-Ukrainian village at the border of Poland, 24 hours before the Nazi invasion, known as Operation Barbarossa. *SHTTL* depicts the vitality and vibrancy of lives about to be destroyed. Featuring a stellar cast, including Moshe Lobel (Off-Broadway's *Yiddish Fiddler on the Roof*), the production constructed a complete replica of a traditional shtetl outside of Kyiv for filming. The set was to be turned into a museum but has since been destroyed in the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Mature content

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Thursday, August 3, 11am; Hart Theater

June Zero

Narrative | 2023 | 105 min.
English, Hebrew (w/ subtitles) | USA, Israel
Director: Jake Paltrow



In this stunning, richly textured, thought-provoking drama, director Jake Paltrow (yes, Gwyneth's brother and Blythe Danner and Bruce Paltrow's son) explores how "ordinary people" can affect and be affected by momentous events. It is 1962 Israel where Adolph Eichmann is soon to be executed and where three unrelated ordinary Israelis – a 13-year-old Jewish Libyan immigrant, a police investigator for the prosecution, and Eichmann's Jewish Moroccan prison guard – are about to not only witness history but also help make it. Beautifully filmed in Israel and Ukraine and inspired by true events, *June Zero* has won raves at film festivals across the country.

Mature content

Underwritten by

Barbara and Marvin Gray

Thursday, August 3, 1:45pm; Hart Theater

iMordechai

Narrative | 2022 | 102 min. | English
USA | Director: Marvin Samel



Two of the screen's most beloved actors, Judd Hirsch and Carol Kane, play Mordecai and Fela, Survivors from Poland and the aging parents of Marvin (Oscar-nominated Sean Astin, famed for *Lord of the Rings*). Marvin struggles to support his own family while trying his best to be there for his parents. Meanwhile Mordecai has his own struggles – with his new iPhone! Determined to conquer modern technology, he confronts all kinds of new experiences and gives his son an unexpected helping hand. An uplifting comedy with a serious edge, *iMordechai* revels in the joy of living life to the fullest. Based on a true story.

Underwritten by

Betsy and Stuart Bobry

and



Jewish Senior Life



Thursday, August 3, 6pm; Dryden Theatre

Closed Circuit

Documentary | 2022 | 54 min.

English, Hebrew (w/ subtitles)

Israel | Director: Tal Inbar



Produced by Nancy Spielberg, *Closed Circuit* is unlike anything you've ever seen. It consists of footage recorded by hidden security cameras installed throughout Tel Aviv's Sarona Market, which was attacked by terrorists in 2016, and includes riveting interviews with both Jewish and Muslim witnesses to the event. They include a customer who fought back, a cop who unknowingly saved one of the fleeing terrorists, restaurant workers, and a man celebrating the end of the Ramadan fast with his family. Their words quietly but powerfully reveal how every would-be act of terror can have complex, unexpected consequences.

Preceding *Closed Circuit*:

Rochester and Israel at 75: The Ties That Bind

Documentary | 2023 | 10 min. | English | U.S.

Produced by the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester.

Created by Isobel Goldman, Jeffrey Hirschberg,

Sid Rosenzweig, and WXXI. Narrated by Don Alhart.



Post-Film Q&A

with Meredith Dragon,
CEO of Jewish Federation
of Greater Rochester

Underwritten by

Sherry and Richard Goldstein

Thursday, August 3, 8:15pm; Dryden Theatre

One More Story

Narrative | 2021 | 91 min.

Hebrew (w/ subtitles) | Israel

Director: Guri Alfi



In this don't-miss treat from Israel, a pair of online daters agree to skip the preliminaries and tell each other the worst things they've ever done. This charming and uniquely Israeli rom-com, adapted from Omar Barak's best-selling novel *Wedding Rush*, marks the directorial debut of comedian, singer, and actor, Guri Alfi (*The New Jew*, RJFF22). In *One More Story*, Yarden (Dina Senderson of HBO Max's *Uri and Ella*), an ambitious young journalist, confesses to the bargain she struck with her sleazy editor and lover, Amos (Lior Ashkenazi): In exchange for his help in publishing her book, she will undertake a series of columns about modern romance, based on the dating disasters of her best friend. What could possibly go wrong?

Community Partner

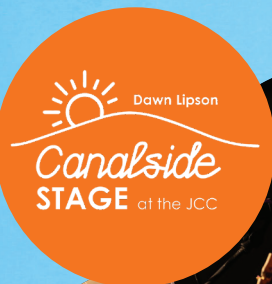


★ LOUIS S. WOLK
JCC
ROCHESTER

**CONCERT
SERIES**

Morgan Stanley

THE WARR GROUP
AT MORGAN STANLEY



Music in the Air!

The Dawn Lipson Canalside Stage at the Louis S. Wolk Jewish Community Center is one of Rochester's most exciting new performance venues. Born out of the pandemic and retained due to popularity, we have been hosting dozens of music events for the last two summers, and are excited to expand our series even more this summer.

Schedule and tickets available now!

jccrochester.org/canalside

Saturday, August 5, 6:45pm; Dryden Theatre

America

Narrative | 2023 | 127 min.

Hebrew (w/ subtitles)

Israel, Germany, Czech Republic

Director: Ofir Raul Graizer



An Israeli swimming instructor who lives in Chicago returns to Israel after a 10-year absence to bury his father and sort through his affairs. There he reconnects with his beloved childhood friend, who lives with his fiancée, setting off a series of events that will affect everyone's lives. Following the international success of the acclaimed film, *The Cakemaker*, writer/director Ofir Raul Graizer presents a visually beautiful and poignant story about friendship, sexual identity, trauma, and forgiveness.

Best Actress Winner (Oshrat Ingedashet), 2022 Jerusalem Film Festival; Audience Award, 2022 Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival; Critics Jury Prize, Miami Jewish Film Festival



Tonight's screening is dedicated to **Michael Gamilla**, ImageOut Film Festival Programmer, whose love of film, passion for fashion, and generosity of heart will forever be remembered by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him, including all of us at RJFF. Ofir Raul Graizer, the director of *America*, also directed *The Cakemaker*, one of Michael's favorites. We miss you, Michael. This one's for you.

Underwritten by

**Gary and Marcia Stern
Family Foundation**

Community Partner

IMAGEOUT



Havdalah at the Mansion

Saturday, August 5, 9:15pm

Join us outside at the George Eastman Museum after the film *America* to share in a special Havdalah with our RJFF friends and family.

Shavua Tov!



Israel Day

Three Israeli Films, Three Unique Stories

Sunday, August 6, 1pm; Dryden Theatre

Cinema Sabaya

Narrative | 2022 | 92 min.
Hebrew, Arabic (w/ subtitles)
Israel, Belgium | Director: Orit Fouks Rotem



At a workshop, a group of Arab and Jewish women learn to document their lives on video. As the women share their raw footage, they are forced to challenge preconceived beliefs. Writer-director Orit Fouks Rotem's dramatic narrative feels utterly real because it is based closely on her own teaching experiences and features a mix of seasoned and non-professional actors. A heartfelt portrait of art's power to unite disparate communities, *Cinema Sabaya* won five Ophirs (Israeli Academy Awards) including Best Picture, Director, and Supporting Actress, and was Israel's entry in the 95th Academy Awards.

Community Partner



National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

Sunday, August 6, 3:15pm; Dryden Theatre

Matchmaking

Narrative | 2022
98 min. | Hebrew (w/ subtitles) | Israel
Director: Erez Tadmor



Moti Bernstein has it all: a good family, a brilliant mind, a stellar reputation. And he isn't bad looking either. When he begins to search for a wife, he has his pick of the best young women the Orthodox world has to offer. Unfortunately, he has already fallen head over heels for Nechama, who is smart, beautiful...and Sephardic. Within the strict conventions of his community, there is no way the two can be together. But Moti is not one to give up easily and, while his methods may be a bit unconventional, he is entirely committed to making his wishes come true.

Underwritten by

Joyce Schachter

and

Elise and Joseph Wojciechowski

CLOSING *Night*

Sunday, August 6, 7pm; Dryden Theatre

Karaoke

Narrative | 2022 | 100 min.

Hebrew (w/ subtitles)

Israel | Director: Moshe Rosenthal



An offbeat, bittersweet comedy that delights and surprises, *Karaoke* follows Tova and Meir, heading into their 60s, leading comfortable but dull, stale, passionless lives. Their lives are jolted by a charismatic young neighbor, Itzik, and his exciting lifestyle. Basking in his attentive smile, they are rejuvenated and begin to imagine the possibility of a new chapter for themselves. But that's just the start of this twisty tale, which was nominated for 13 Ophirs (Israeli Academy Awards), including Best Picture and Director. *Karaoke* focuses on the new Sephardic middle class, a group underrepresented in Israeli film, and features Israeli superstars Lior Ashkenazi, Sasson Gabay, and Rita Shukrun.

Mature content

Underwritten by
Debby Goldman

ISRAEL@75 PARTY!

Immediately following *Karaoke*

Enjoy your favorite Israeli treats!



Party underwritten by



Festival Information

Order Tickets

Online at rjff.org

Charge by Phone: 585.461.2000 x235

By Mail: Return the enclosed form. Mail orders must be received prior to July 30.

Evening Films.....	JCC Member: \$10	Non-Member: \$12
Weekday Matinees.....	JCC Member: \$8	Non-Member: \$10
Opening + Closing Night (Party Included).....	JCC Member: \$12	Non-Member: \$15
All Festival Passes.....	JCC Member: \$150	Non-Member: \$190

Note: In-person sales are only available at the venue 1 hour prior to each screening.

Virtual Festival

Select films available to stream online from August 7–14. Details at rjff.org.

All Festival Pass

Valid for all in-person RJFF films July 30–August 6, 2023. Each All Festival Pass allows you to order one ticket for each film at no charge. Tickets must be reserved for each film to guarantee seating.

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 reserved at both the JCC Hart Theater and Dryden Theatre.

Select your seats when you reserve tickets online, and your seats will be guaranteed!

Accessibility

Festival venues are handicapped 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.

Covid-19

Masks optional. Proof of vaccination not required.

Questions?

For additional information please visit rjff.org or call 585.461.2000 x235.

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 x237.

RJFF 2023 COMMITTEE CHAIR

Michal Benita-Weiss

RJFF 2023 COMMITTEE

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Ruth Cowing

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Elliot Fix

Madeleine Fordham

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JCC ARTS + CULTURE

ASSISTANT

Marc Cataldi

JCC DIRECTOR OF

ARTS + CULTURE

Ralph Meranto

JCC PRESIDENT

Howard Cohen

JCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Josh Weinstein

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.

Join the conversation on **social media!**

We'll share exclusive film updates, festival information, ticket giveaways and more.



@ROCHESTERJEWISHFILMFESTIVAL



@JCCRJFF



@JCCRJFF

Save the dates for
next year's festival!

July 14–21, 2024

RJFF Mission Statement

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.

Schedule and tickets online at

rjff.org

Order Tickets

Online: Purchase and choose your seats at rjff.org. Online orders are preferred.

Mail-in: Don't have access to a computer? Mail this form to the address below:

JCC Rochester, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618, attn: Film Festival

NOTE: For mail-in orders, best available seats will be selected for you.

Virtual Films must be ordered online via rjff.org.

Questions? E-mail mcataldi@jccrochester.org or call 585.461.2000 x235.

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	Date	Time	JCC Mem.	Non-Mem.	Qty.	Total
All Festival Pass			\$150	\$190		
Survivors	Sun. 7/30	1pm	\$10	\$12		
Four Winters	Sun. 7/30	3pm	\$10	\$12		
Simone Veil (+ Party)	Sun. 7/30	6:30pm	\$12	\$15		
Barren	Mon. 7/31	11am	\$8	\$10		
Jewish Jail Lady	Mon. 7/31	1:45pm	\$8	\$10		
First to Stand	Mon. 7/31	6pm	\$10	\$12		
Farewell, Mr. Haffmann	Mon. 7/31	8:15pm	\$10	\$12		
My Neighbor Adolf	Tues. 8/1	11am	\$8	\$10		
Our (ACT) Story	Tues. 8/1	1:45pm	\$8	\$10		
Exodus 91	Tues. 8/1	6pm	\$10	\$12		
March '68	Tues. 8/1	8:15pm	\$10	\$12		
When Life Begins	Wed. 8/2	11am	\$8	\$10		
Encanto (PJ Library)	Wed. 8/2	5:30pm	FREE			
Israel Swings for Gold	Wed. 8/2	6pm	\$10	\$12		
SHTTL	Wed. 8/2	8:15pm	\$10	\$12		
June Zero	Thurs. 8/3	11am	\$8	\$10		
iMordechai	Thurs. 8/3	1:45pm	\$8	\$10		
Closed Circuit	Thurs. 8/3	6pm	\$10	\$12		
One More Story	Thurs. 8/3	8:15pm	\$10	\$12		
America	Sat. 8/5	6:45m	\$10	\$12		
Cinema Sabaya	Sun. 8/6	1pm	\$10	\$12		
Matchmaking	Sun. 8/6	3:15pm	\$10	\$12		
Karaoke (+ Party)	Sun. 8/6	7pm	\$12	\$15		
Add a tax-deductible donation. Thank you!						
TOTAL						

PAYMENT FORM:

Check enclosed made payable to JCC of Greater Rochester

Credit Card: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Security code: _____ Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ Email: _____

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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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Judd Hirsch stars in *iMordechai*
Thursday, August 3, 1:45pm
at the JCC Hart Theater