



24th JCC Ames Amzalak
Rochester
Jewish Film Festival
JULY 14-21 2024
rjff.org

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

Sir Anthony Hopkins as
Nicholas Winton in *One Life*



Welcome!

Welcome to the 24th JCC Ames Amzalak Rochester Jewish Film Festival (RJFF) presenting films from around the world that explore the Jewish experience. This year's festival presents a dynamic lineup of 27 films from 12 countries, including 14 narratives, 11 documentaries, 2 short films and, for the first time, a Family Drive-In Movie Night at the JCC.

For 24 years, we have gathered in theaters to watch our lives, our history, our humanity, unfold on-screen. This year will be no different. With challenges, come determination, hope, and resilience. We are stronger together, and we hope we can depend on you to join us in the theaters this summer where we will, as always, watch our collective story unfold on film.

Supernova: The Music Festival Massacre is the first film to be released about the October 7, 2023 terrorist attack in Israel. It will not be the last. Many Israeli filmmakers have dedicated themselves to documenting the unimaginable stories of that day, and all that followed, to ensure the world knows the truth. *Supernova* screened at our JCC in March to a nearly sold-out crowd. RJFF will host an encore screening, alongside several other films, to help us all deepen our grasp of current events.



As the RJFF committee began programming for this year, we could not help but view the films being considered for the festival through several new lenses – some more painful, and all more meaningful. We curated and planned this festival with a renewed purpose to guard against ignorance, encourage unity, and embrace living Jewishly with pride and joy.

We are deeply grateful to you for supporting this event. See you all very soon.

Am Yisrael Chai.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michal".

Michal Benita-Weiss, RJFF Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrea Miller".

Andrea Miller, RJFF Director

Security at the Festival

The JCC and RJFF place the highest priority on ensuring a safe environment for this year's festival. To enhance safety, we are working closely with local security professionals to guide our protocols. There will be increased security throughout the festival and respective law enforcement agencies have been notified. RJFF reserves the right to deny access. Large bags and backpacks are discouraged. Random bag checks may occur. If you see something, say something. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Follow us on social media for any updates.

2024 *Calendar*

Sunday July 14	Monday July 15	Tuesday July 16	Wednesday July 17	Thursday July 18	Friday July 19	Sunday July 21
Vishniac 1pm Dryden Q&A	The Shadow of the Day 11am JCC	How to Come Alive with Norman Mailer 11am JCC	Call Me Dancer 11am JCC	Monkey House 11am JCC	The Catskills 11am JCC	Golda's War Diaries 1pm Dryden Bella! 2:45pm Dryden
Running on Sand 3:30pm Dryden	Rabbi on the Block 1:45pm JCC	Martha Liebermann: A Stolen Life 1:15pm JCC	Stay With Us 1:15pm JCC	Auction 1:45pm JCC	Saturday July 20	
Remembering Gene Wilder 7pm Dryden Opening Night Party!	Hope Without Boundaries 6:30pm Dryden	All About the Levkoviches 6pm Dryden	Resistance: They Fought Back 6pm Dryden	Kidnapped (Rapito) 5:45pm Dryden Q&A	One Life 7:15pm Dryden Q&A	Seven Blessings (Sheva Brachot) 7pm Dryden Celebrate Israel
	Supernova (+ The Boy) 8pm Dryden Q&A	Victory 8pm Dryden Family Drive-In: Elemental 8:30pm JCC Lot	No Name Restaurant 8:15pm Dryden	Less Than Kosher (+Anne Frank Gift Shop) 8:30pm Dryden	Havdalah at the Mansion 9:35pm	



Post-film Q&As with community leaders

Reserved Seats

All seats are reserved! No need to arrive early to get your favorite spot. Buy your tickets online and choose your seats. For mail-in orders, we'll select your seats for you and hold your tickets at will call.

All Festival Pass

Savings and convenience! See every film for less and support the festival. After purchasing your All Festival Pass, you'll be able to reserve your seats for every film. Visit rjff.org for all the details.

Festival Venues



Alfred and Ida Hart Theater
1200 Edgewood Avenue



900 East Avenue

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THANK
You

The JCC Ames Amzalak Rochester Jewish Film Festival gratefully acknowledges its generous 2024 supporters.
(This listing refers to gifts received as of May 1, 2024.)

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ADAM J. BELLO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

OPENING *Daily*

Sunday, July 14, 1pm; Dryden Theatre

Vishniac

Documentary | 2023 | 93 min. | English | USA

Director: Laura Bialis

The William and Sheila Konar
SPOTLIGHT FILM



He was flamboyant, outspoken, and a master of reinvention. He was also one of the greatest photographers of the 20th century – a brilliant artist whose body of work spans decades, and continents. Roman Vishniac documented Jewish life in Eastern Europe before and after WWII, providing the last visual records of an entire world. In a stunning shift, he turned almost exclusively to scientific photography where he made considerable contributions in the field of microscopy. Now, for the first time, Vishniac's story is told. *Mature content.*

Q&A

Post-film Q&A with Jonathan Feldman, a close friend of the Vishniac family, and Bonnie

Abrams, RJFF committee member and former director of Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester's Center for Holocaust Awareness and Information.

Vishniac's late son Wolf, a distinguished microbiologist, spent his career at the University of Rochester. Wolf's son Ethan, one of the film's narrators, is an equally distinguished astronomer who grew up in Rochester and graduated from the University of Rochester.

Vishniac Photography Exhibit

On display at the George Eastman Museum before and after screening of *Vishniac*

The collection of eight photographs, *The Vanished World*, is a recent gift from the Konar Family to the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project at Monroe Community College. The photographs are on permanent display, and open to the public, at the MCC LeRoy V. Good Library. Thank you to Jodi Oriel.



Roman Vishniac
(Russian-American, 1897-1990)
Grandfather and granddaughter,
Lublin 1937 Gelatin silver print
© Mara Vishniac Kohn

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**William and Sheila
Konar Foundation**

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Sunday, July 14, 3:30pm; Dryden Theatre

Running on Sand

Narrative | 2023 | 104 min. | English,
Hebrew, Tigrinya (w/subtitles) | Israel

Director: Adar Shafran



Nominated for the Israeli Academy Award for Best Feature, *Running on Sand* is a feel-good tale of mistaken identity. Omari, a young Eritrean refugee is about to be deported back to his home country. After a spontaneous escape attempt, he is mistaken for a Nigerian football (soccer) player brought to Israel to help the struggling Maccabi Netanya team. While a tender bond is forming with the team owner's daughter, how long can Omari keep up the disguise? *Running on Sand* proves you don't need miracles, just the right person to take a stand for you.

Mature content.



2023 Winner
Best Debut Film, Best Screenplay

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All Festival Pass

Support the festival by purchasing an All Festival Pass and see every film for less!



JCC Member: \$150
Non-Member: \$190

After purchasing your All Festival Pass, you'll be able to reserve your seats for every film.

Visit rjff.org for all the details.

Stay in Touch!

For up-to-the-minute information about the festival, please follow us on:

 @rochesterjewishfilmfestival

 @jccrjff

OPENING *Night*

Sunday, July 14, 7pm; Dryden Theatre

Remembering Gene Wilder

Documentary | 2023 | 92 min. | English | USA | Director: Ron Frank



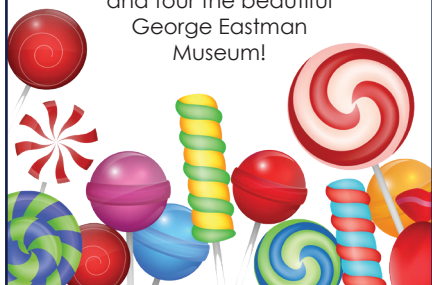
This loving tribute to Gene Wilder celebrates his life and legacy as the comic genius behind an extraordinary string of film roles, from his first collaboration with Mel Brooks in *The Producers*, to the enigmatic title role in the original *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, to his inspired on-screen partnership with Richard Pryor in movies like *Silver Streak*. Illustrated by a bevy of touching and hilarious clips and outtakes, never-before-seen home movies, narration from Wilder's audiobook memoir, and interviews with a roster of brilliant friends and collaborators like Mel Brooks, Alan Alda, and Carol Kane, *Remembering Gene Wilder* shines a light on an essential performer, writer, director, and all-around mensch.

Underwritten by
The Rubens Family Foundation

OPENING NIGHT PARTY!

WILLY WONKA CANDY BAR

Enjoy some fun sweets
and tour the beautiful
George Eastman
Museum!



Monday, July 15, 11am; JCC Hart Theater

The Shadow of the Day

Narrative | 2023 | 125 min.

Italian (w/subtitles) | Italy

Director: Giuseppe Piccioni



Set in the 1930s in the picturesque town of Ascoli Piceno, Italy, *The Shadow of the Day* is a dramatic and gripping love story. Luciano, a wounded WWI veteran and a fascist sympathizer, runs a local restaurant. He believes he can live his life according to his own set of rules. But when Anna appears looking for work, her dangerous secret sends them in an unexpected direction. Among the many dangers they face, including the onset of WWII, there is the greatest danger of all: love. Giuseppe Piccioni's thoughtful melodrama reflects on fascism and the pre-war atmosphere of control and isolation.

Mature content.

Underwritten by
Betsy and Stuart Bobry

Monday, July 15, 1:45pm; JCC Hart Theater

Rabbi on the Block

Documentary | 2023 | 88 min.

English | USA

Director: Brad Rothschild



A sequel to the popular documentary *They Ain't Ready for Me* (RJFF 2021) that first introduced us to Chicago's Rabbi Tamar Manasseh, *Rabbi on the Block* focuses on Tamar's tireless efforts to end ignorance by uncovering the largely unknown but powerfully compelling and surprisingly long history of African American Judaism. With one foot firmly in each of these two communities, Tamar is the natural bridge to help overcome decades of fear, misunderstanding, and lack of communication. With verité intimacy, filmmaker Brad Rothschild shows how one woman's fearless commitment to social justice can move mountains, one block at a time.

Underwritten by
**Susan and Saul Marsh
Family Fund**



We stand with the people of Israel and pray for the return of the hostages, and for safety and security for all.



Monday, July 15, 6:30pm; Dryden Theatre

Hope Without Boundaries

Documentary | 2023 | 65 min.
Hebrew, Russian, Ukrainian (w/subtitles)
Israel | Director: Itay Vered



In the midst of the war in Ukraine, and faced with enormous challenges, an Israeli team of medical professionals established an Israeli field hospital – in just two weeks – to provide medical care to Ukrainian patients who had lost everything. Amidst the chaos and destruction, the film highlights the humanity and compassion of both the medical team and the people they care for. Woven into the remarkable story of hope is the undeniable history of antisemitism, loss, and healing.

Underwritten by
**The Families of
Laurence and Dennis Kessler**

and



Monday, July 15, 8pm; Dryden Theatre

Supernova: The Music Festival Massacre

Documentary | 2023 | 52 min.
Hebrew (w/subtitles) | Germany, Israel
Director: Duki Dror, Yossi Bloch



Filmmakers Duki Dror and Yossi Bloch offer a chronological account of the massacre at the Supernova Music Festival on October 7 through the eyes of the individuals who endured it. The film weaves materials meticulously collected from dozens of sources – terrorists' GoPros, victims' phones, CCTV cameras, dashcams, and first responders' recordings – with testimonies by survivors, first responders, and parents who recount their stories just a few days after the events. Disturbing but vital viewing that demands history never forget.

Mature content.

Q&A

Post-Film Discussion

Preceding Supernova

The Boy

Short | 2023 | 25 min.
Hebrew (w/subtitles) | Israel
Director: Yahav Winner



A father and son from a Kibbutz bordering the Gaza Strip are forced to deal with another round of rockets and combat, each in their own way.

Hamas terrorists murdered director Yahav Winner on October 7 after his attempt to stall the terrorists in order to allow his wife Shaylee Atary and their newborn daughter Shaya to escape and survive. Yahav had just completed this film at the time of his murder. May his memory always be for a blessing.



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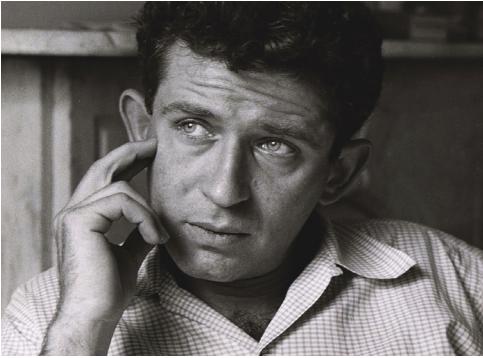
Tuesday, July 16, 11am; JCC Hart Theater

How to Come Alive with Norman Mailer

Documentary | 2023 | 102 min.

English | USA

Director: Jeff Zimbalist



This compelling film explores the rollercoaster life of one of America's most controversial authors of the 20th century, Norman Mailer. Propelled by his tremendous ego and contrarian spirit, Mailer's visibility in the public eye lasted 6 decades, during which he had 6 tumultuous marriages, 9 beloved children, 11 bestsellers, 3 arrests, and 2 Pulitzer Prizes. Prophet, hedonist, violent criminal, literary outlaw, and social provocateur, Mailer's ideas about love, anger, fear, and courage cut to the core of human nature, are more relevant than ever today, and point to a prescription for coming alive as a people.

Mature content.

Underwritten by
Heidi and Mike Fishman

Community Partner



Tuesday, July 16, 1:15pm; JCC Hart Theater

Martha Liebermann: A Stolen Life

Narrative | 2023 | 88 min.

German (w/subtitles) | Germany

Director: Stefan Bühling



Upper-class widow Martha Liebermann stubbornly refused to leave her beloved homeland, choosing to remain in war-torn Berlin. Despite her Jewish heritage, her reputation – and that of her late husband famous painter Max Liebermann – she had managed to stay safe from the Nazis until early 1943. Faced with imminent deportation to a concentration camp, she was encouraged to sell some of her husband's valuable paintings and use the funds to make her escape. *Martha Liebermann: A Stolen Life* is the true story of this distinguished 85-year-old woman and the impossible choices she was forced to make.

Mature content.

Underwritten by
Stacey and Marc Saiontz

and



BRIGHTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL, INC.

Tuesday, July 16, 6pm; Dryden Theatre

All About the Levkoviches

Narrative | 2024 | 85 min.

Hungarian (w/subtitles) | Hungary

Director: Ádám Breier



In this deeply touching and often humorous film, the generous but stubborn boxing coach Tamás gets along well with everyone but his own son. They have not spoken since his son moved to Israel and began living a more religious life. When Tamás' beloved wife dies unexpectedly, he agrees that his son can come sit shiva in his house – as long as he brings his grandson with him. As past conflicts resurface, they embark on an unexpected journey of self-reflection and reconciliation.

Underwritten by
Samloff Family Fund

Tuesday, July 16, 8pm; Dryden Theatre

Victory

Narrative | 2023 | 114 min.

Hebrew (w/subtitles) | Israel, Ukraine

Director: Eliran Peled



In this unexpected, dazzling, and very colorful musical set in the heady days following Israel's 1967 victory, an ambitious young actress and her combat-vet husband from Kibbutz Netzer Sirani begin to learn the struggles of real life. Amidst a nation celebrating, they navigate the unseen aftermath of war and the challenge of keeping love alive. This story offers a fresh and engaging take on the impact of war, the price of fame, and the power of love.

Mature Content.



Nominated for Best Costume Design,
Best Music, Best Sound, Best Art Direction

Underwritten by
Sharon Brodsky and Noreen Salerno

Community Partner



FAMILY DRIVE-IN MOVIE

Tuesday, July 16, 8:30pm; JCC Parking Lot
(Parking Lot opens at 8pm)

Elemental

Narrative | 2023 | 110 min. | English | USA
Director: Peter Sohn | (PG) Disney and Pixar

Join us for a fun evening at our Pop-Up Drive-In Movie in the JCC parking lot! Bring the entire family and enjoy the Pixar/Disney movie *Elemental* from the comfort of your car.

Elemental is a celebration of cultural diversity, resilience, and the human spirit.

Free Kosher popcorn and drinks will be provided. Sweet treats available for purchase. Fun for the whole family!

FREE, advance registration required.



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**WOLK
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Wednesday, July 17, 11am; JCC Hart Theater

Call Me Dancer

Documentary | 2023 | 84 min.

English, Hindi (w/subtitles)

India, UK, Israel, USA

Director: Leslie Champaine, Pip Gilmour



Overcoming impossible odds, an impoverished breakdancer from the streets of Mumbai stumbles into ballet class and, with the help of a stern but loving 70-year-old Israeli ballet master, pursues his dream of dancing on the world's stage. *Call Me Dancer* is a story of hope, heartache, and hard work. Though the odds are stacked against him, his perseverance through highs and lows reveals the power of dance to transform lives. *Call Me Dancer* is a "Billy Elliot" style story that will make you want to jump up from your seat and dance!



Palm Springs Int'l Film Festival, Berkshire Int'l Film Festival



NY Indian Film Festival

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The Miller Family Foundation

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Wednesday, July 17, 1:15pm; JCC Hart Theater

Stay With Us

Narrative | 2022 | 93 min.

French (w/subtitles) | France

Director: Gad Elmaleh



After three years in America, French-Jewish actor and comedian Gad Elmaleh decides to move back home to Paris. He misses his family and friends. Or, at least that's what Gad tells his loving yet overbearing parents. However, it's not long before his parents find out the true reason for their son's return – after a long period of ambivalence towards his own Jewishness, Gad has officially decided to convert to Catholicism. Dumbfounded and with only five weeks before his baptism, Gad's family endeavors to bring him back to Judaism for fear of losing him forever.

Mature content.

Underwritten by
Joyce Schachter
and
Elise and Joseph Wojciechowski

Wednesday, July 17, 6pm; Dryden Theatre

Resistance: They Fought Back

Documentary | 2023 | 100 min.
English, Polish, Hebrew, Latvian,
Lithuanian (w/subtitles) | USA
Director: Kirk Wolfinger, Paula S. Apsell



Most people have no idea how widespread and prevalent Jewish resistance to Nazi barbarism was. Instead, it's widely believed that Jews went to their deaths "like sheep to the slaughter." *Resistance: They Fought Back* provides a much-needed corrective to this myth of Jewish passivity. There were large and small uprisings in ghettos, and more than 90 armed rebellions in death camps. Thousands of partisans fought in the forests, as well as in countless campaigns of non-violent resistance. Directed by Emmy and Peabody award-winning documentarians, *Resistance: They Fought Back* pays tribute to the unsung heroes.

Mature content.

Underwritten by
Erni and Randy Schuster

Community Partner



Wednesday, July 17, 8:15pm; Dryden Theatre

No Name Restaurant

Narrative | 2023 | 121 min.
English | Germany
Director: Stefan Sarazin, Peter Keller



Ben (Luzer Twersky, *One of Us*, Netflix) is an orthodox Jew from Brooklyn, sent to save the once-mighty Jewish community in Alexandria, Egypt, by serving as the tenth man in the Passover minyan. Soon he's stranded in Egypt's Sinai desert, where he meets Adel, a grumpy Bedouin who has lost his camel. The unlikely pair clashes, but Adel's exasperation transforms into a grudging respect for Ben and his mission. A meaningful and humorous road movie set in the Holy Land, *No Name Restaurant* shows that friendship and hope can come in many flavors.

Underwritten by
Dina and Dmitry Chuprin

Thursday, July 18, 11am; JCC Hart Theater

Monkey House

Narrative | 2023 | 128 min.

Hebrew, Italian (w/subtitles) | Israel

Director: Avi Nesher



Monkey House is an intricate thriller that gradually reveals a complex con game concocted by an Israeli novelist and the woman writing his biography. Things get more complicated when an ambitious filmmaker discovers the scheme and makes a movie about it. At the center of it all is a very moving love story. Entertaining and thought provoking, this is the latest film from Avi Nesher, one of Israel's most internationally acclaimed filmmakers, whose films have played at previous RJFFs.

Mature content.

Underwritten by
Debi and Ralph Brenner

Thursday, July 18, 1:45pm; JCC Hart Theater

Auction

Narrative | 2024 | 91 min.

French (w/subtitles) | France

Director: Pascal Bonitzer



André Masson, an art appraiser, receives a letter from a lawyer claiming that a common worker in a lower income suburb of Mulhouse, France owns a painting by Egon Schiele, the Austrian Expressionist painter. André's first reaction is to believe that it can only be a fake. Against all odds, the painting turns out to be a masterpiece gone missing in 1939 after being confiscated by the Nazis. Worth millions of dollars, both André and the young man must grapple with their own needs and decide the fate of the painting. *Auction* is a gorgeous and deeply moving film about honor and truth.

Mature content.

Underwritten by
Debby Goldman

Thursday, July 18, 5:45pm; Dryden Theatre

Kidnapped (*Rapito*): The Abduction of Edgardo Mortara

Narrative | 2023 | 134 min. | Italian, Hebrew (w/subtitles) | Italy, France, Germany
Director: Marco Bellocchio



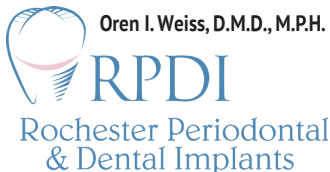
Set in 1858 Bologna, sumptuously filmed by one of Italy's greatest filmmakers, 85-year-old Marco Bellocchio, *Kidnapped* combines painful history and operatic emotions to tell the true story of the Mortaras' struggle to get their seven-year-old son back from an antisemitic, authoritarian Pope. The boy had been secretly baptized by his nurse; papal law said he therefore must be taken from his family to be raised a Catholic. Soon, the Mortaras' plight becomes a weapon in Italy's fight against papal power.

Mature content.



Post-Film Q&A with ROCAA in the George Eastman Museum's Multi-Purpose Room, located down the hall from the Dryden Theatre.

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Thursday, July 18, 8:30pm; Dryden Theatre

Less Than Kosher

Narrative | 2023 | 67 min.

English | Canada

Director: Daniel Am Rosenberg



In this snappy, Toronto-set musical comedy, a failing singer-songwriter Viv (actor-musician Shaina Silver-Baird) returns to her hometown just in time for her younger sister's Bat Mitzvah – where she feels like a gefilte fish out of water. In order to set her back on the right path, her rabbi enlists her as a part-time cantor, but that creates its own problems – like the attractive but off-limits rabbi's son. Originally developed as a web-series, *Less Than Kosher* won four awards at Canada's 2023 T.O. Webfest, including the Grand Prize for Best Web Series and the awards for Best Comedy, Best Writing, and Best Actor.

Mature content.

Underwritten by

Victoria and Daniel Goldstein

Community Partner



Special Short Film

Preceding *Less Than Kosher*

The Anne Frank Gift Shop

Short | 2023 | 15 min. | English | USA

Director: Mickey Rapkin



When a high-end design firm presents its plans to reimagine The Anne Frank House gift shop, the company's overt appeal to Generation Z sparks a debate about collective trauma, the Holocaust, and tote bags. This dark comedy about antisemitism packs a vital and timely message. Starring Rochesterian Chris Perfetti of *Abbott Elementary* fame.



Friday, July 19, 11am; JCC Hart Theater

The Catskills

Documentary | 2024 | 86 min. | English | USA | Director: Lex Gillespie



Once upon a time there was a magical kingdom called The Catskills, a resort area a few hours north of New York City where Jews of all classes, from wealthy celebrities to working-class immigrants and Holocaust Survivors, found refuge from the summer heat. Stuffed with shtick from former waiters, entertainers, and visitors telling tales of the Borscht Belt's family-run resorts and bungalows, *The Catskills* is an immensely entertaining, totally satisfying film full of familiar memories, unfamiliar history, and lots of fun.



Enjoy a bagel & a schmear after the film!

Underwritten by



Barbara and Marvin Gray

and

Jewish Home

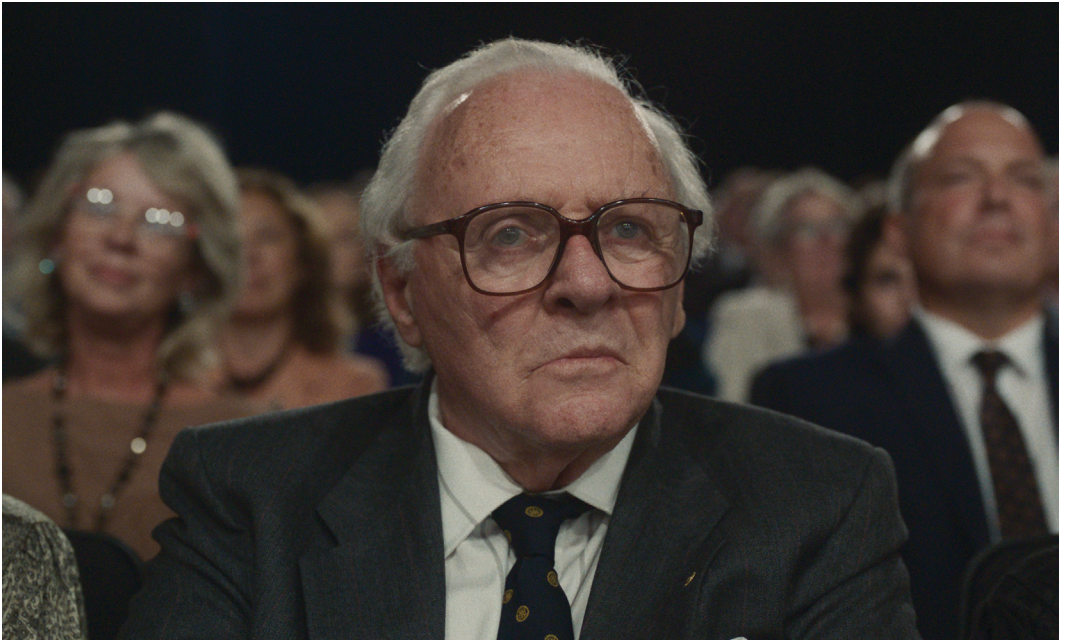
Community Partner



Saturday, July 20, 7:15pm; Dryden Theatre

One Life

Narrative | 2023 | 109 min. | English | UK | Director: James Hawes



After the sold-out sneak-peek screening here in Rochester in March, *One Life* returns for an encore. While the film is available to view on several platforms, we believe it is a film worthy of bringing back to the big screen to be seen together, as a community. *One Life* tells the incredible, emotional true story of Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, played by Sir Anthony Hopkins. In a race against time, Winton convinces the British Committee for Refugees in Czechoslovakia to rescue hundreds of Jewish children before Nazi occupation closes the borders. *One Life* is based on the book *If It's Not Impossible* by Winton's late daughter, Barbara Winton. Audience Award Best Narrative – Atlanta Jewish Film Festival

Mature content.

Q&A

Post-film Q&A: *The Impact of One Life on Another* with Monica Gebell, Executive Director, Levine Center to End Hate and Director, Community Relations at Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester.

Underwritten by

Mark and Mona Friedman Kolko

Community Partners



Havdalah at the Mansion

Saturday, July 20, 9:35pm

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



CLOSING *Day*

Sunday, July 21, 1pm; Dryden Theatre

Golda's War Diaries

Documentary | 2023 | 74 min.
Hebrew (w/subtitles) | Israel
Director: Yariv Mozer



To mark the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War, Israel's National Archive has released the official transcripts of Prime Minister Golda Meir's office from the time of the war – documents unknown to the public until now. Dozens of documents describe what took place in Israel's seat of power at the time, including accounts of the minor moments that led to major decisions during the war. These documents leave no room for doubt. Golda did not fail. In fact, Israel's achievements resulting from the war made it possible, five years later, to reach a peace agreement with Egypt.

Mature content.

Underwritten by
**Stuart Hanau
and Linda Lohner**

Sunday, July 21, 2:45pm; Dryden Theatre

Bella!

Documentary | 2023 | 102 min.
English | USA
Director: Jeff L. Lieberman



When Bella Abzug entered Congress in 1970, women could not have their own credit cards, the LGBTQ community was constantly harassed, and the old boys' club that ruled America refused to recognize the country's diversity. *Bella!* shows how she used her Bronx swagger and famous hats to fight forces from the right and the left and become the most loved – and hated – figure in American politics. Telling intimate, little-known stories about Bella include Hillary Clinton, Gloria Steinem, Barbra Streisand, and more. *Bella!* delves into a colorful and gritty era where one woman sacrificed her own political ambitions for future generations of female leaders.

Mature content.

Underwritten by
**Gary and Marcia Stern
Family Foundation**

Community Partners

IMAGEOUT

Michael Gamila
Spotlight Film

NCJ 

National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

CLOSING *Night*

Sunday, July 21, 7pm; Dryden Theatre
Seven Blessings (*Sheva Brachot*)

Narrative | 2023 | 111 min.
Hebrew, French, Moroccan (w/subtitles) | Israel
Director: Ayelet Menahemi



Seven Blessings swept the Israel Ophir Awards with 10 wins including Best Film, and was Israel's official entry to the Academy Awards. This bittersweet dramedy is set in early '90s Jerusalem where Marie, a Moroccan Jewish bride, returns to Israel after 40 years to marry Dan, the son of French Ashkenazi parents. The wedding is preceded by a traditional week of celebratory meals (*sheva brachot*) with her large, boisterous family tribe, whose strong opinions and ancient customs put secrets and lies on the menu. As the joyful façade slowly breaks down, a painful wound from the past is exposed.

Mature content.

Underwritten by

Sherry and Richard Goldstein

CELEBRATE ISRAEL

Immediately following *Seven Blessings*

Enjoy delicious foods from Israel



With generous support from



Jewish Federation
of Greater Rochester

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 14.

Evening Films.....	JCC Member: \$10	Non-Member: \$12
Matinee Films	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.

All Festival Pass

Valid for all in-person RJFF films July 14–21, 2024. 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.

Reserved Seating

All 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.

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.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to the RJFF Committee who work tirelessly to produce this event
Allen Buell and the Dryden Theatre and George Eastman Museum staff
Ralph Meranto, Marc Cataldi, Freyda Schneider, and the JCC staff
All of our dedicated RJFF ushers and volunteers!

Noshing AT THE FEST

Max of Eastman Place is the festival's official event caterer.
(Max of Eastman Place is under kosher supervision.)



Fox's at the JCC – Enjoy snacks and meals before and after the weekday matinee films at Fox's Deli located in the JCC lobby. Pre-order may be available during festival week.
(Fox's is currently not under kosher supervision.)



Food Trucks at the Dryden Theatre – Please note that Open Face, the café located at the George Eastman Museum, closes at 5pm daily. RJFF is working with the local food truck community to secure a nosh for you before and between films. Follow us on social media for updates.
(Food trucks are not under kosher supervision.)



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**Carl Lasky
Audience
Favorite
Awards**



The JCC Ames Amzalak Rochester Jewish Film Festival honors festival founder Carl Lasky 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.

RJFF 25th ANNIVERSARY

Save the Dates:

July 13–20, 2025

Follow RJFF on social media:



@rochesterjewishfilmfestival



@jccrjff

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:
JCC Rochester, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618, attn: Film Festival
 (For mail-in orders, seats will be selected for you. Tickets will be held at will call.)
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 (Select films below to reserve seats)			\$150	\$190		
Vishniac	Sun. 7/14	1pm	\$8	\$10		
Running on Sand	Sun. 7/14	3:30pm	\$8	\$10		
Remembering Gene Wilder	Sun. 7/14	7pm	\$12	\$15		
The Shadow of the Day	Mon. 7/15	11am	\$8	\$10		
Rabbi on the Block	Mon. 7/15	1:45pm	\$8	\$10		
Hope Without Boundaries	Mon. 7/15	6:30pm	\$10	\$12		
Supernova (+ short film)	Mon. 7/15	8pm	\$10	\$12		
How to... with Norman Mailer	Tues. 7/16	11am	\$8	\$10		
Martha Liebermann	Tues. 7/16	1:15pm	\$8	\$10		
All About the Levkoviches	Tues. 7/16	6pm	\$10	\$12		
Victory	Tues. 7/16	8pm	\$10	\$12		
Elemental (Family Drive-In)	Tues. 7/16	8:30pm	FREE			
Call Me Dancer	Wed. 7/17	11am	\$8	\$10		
Stay With Us	Wed. 7/17	1:15pm	\$8	\$10		
Resistance: They Fought Back	Wed. 7/17	6pm	\$10	\$12		
No Name Restaurant	Wed. 7/17	8:15pm	\$10	\$12		
Monkey House	Thurs. 7/18	11am	\$8	\$10		
Auction	Thurs. 7/18	1:45pm	\$8	\$10		
Kidnapped (<i>Rapito</i>)	Thurs. 7/18	5:45pm	\$10	\$12		
Less Than Kosher (+ short film)	Thurs. 7/18	8:30pm	\$10	\$12		
The Catskills	Fri. 7/19	11am	\$8	\$10		
One Life	Sat. 7/20	7:15pm	\$10	\$12		
Golda's War Diaries	Sun. 7/21	1pm	\$8	\$10		
Bella!	Sun. 7/21	2:45pm	\$8	\$10		
Seven Blessings (<i>Sheva Brachot</i>)	Sun. 7/21	7pm	\$12	\$15		
Add a tax-deductible donation. Thank you!						
TOTAL						

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

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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Seven Blessings (Sheva Brachot)

Closing Night – Sunday, July 21

