THE 12TH ANNUAL  Toronto Jewish Film Festival

May 1 - 9, 2004

(416) 324 - 9121

www.tjff.com
# ALPHABETICAL INDEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000 Calories</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abjad</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All U Can Eat</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almost Peaceful</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amsalem's Tears</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avant-Garde Jewish Wedding</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backseat Bingo</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barber, The</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behind Enemy Lines</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berga</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berlin Beshert</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black to the Promised Land</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood from a Stone</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bund, The</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantor on Trial, A</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checkpoint</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children of Abraham &amp; Sophie, The</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chosen, The</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chosen People, The</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conversations with</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crown Heights</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divan</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dora</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dream of Mother, A</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dziga and his Brothers</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Goldman: An Exceedingly Dangerous Woman</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forget Baghdad</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Dachau with Love</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gimpel the Fool</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloomy Sunday</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrew Hammer, The</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiding and Seeking</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Five</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing the Peace</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of Terror</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Satmar Custody</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insight</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspiring Figure</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Bashevis Singer</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is no Dream</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jailbirds</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James' Journey to Jerusalem</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Witness, The</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life’s Work, A</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Bit Different, A</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking for Victoria</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Suspect, The</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mame-Loshn, Kinder-Loshn</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March of the Living, The</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mendel</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mermaids</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal Jewish Memories</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutter</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Brother's Wedding</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Father's Camera</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Favorite Year</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Grandparents Had a Hotel</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Stills: 1952-2002</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 17</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nobody Swings on Sunday</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodox Way, The</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perlasca</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permission to Remember</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postwoman, The</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Mamlock</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promised Land</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purim Safari</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosenstrasse</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose's Songs</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round Trip</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Bak: Painter of Questions</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanhedrin</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Ties</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seekers of Happiness</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sendler's List</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleeping with the Enemy</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stalin's Disciples</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stateless, Arrogant and Lunatic</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strangers</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound Traveller, The</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine Boys, The</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tango des Rashevski, Le</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terza Luna, La</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder in Guyana</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Une Barriere Contre la Terreur</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up Against the Wall (Panel)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vilna Legend, A</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wall, The</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wondrous Oblivion</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yossi and Jagger</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FREE PROGRAMMES** **...............................** [8]

**TICKET ORDER FORM & ADVERTISING ...............................................................** CENTREFOLD

All films are subject to classification
All films are presented in their original language with English subtitles, unless otherwise indicated.
# Festival At A Glance
## TJFF 2004

**Varsity Cinema**

**Saturday, May 1**
Opening Night
9:30 pm - Behind Enemy Lines, 65 min./Strangers, 7 min.

**Bloor Cinema**

**Sunday, May 2**

11:00 am - Mame-Loshn, Kinder-Loshn, 54 min./Dora, 18 min.
1:00 pm - The Wall, 54 min./Une Barriere Contre La Terreur, 25 min.
3:00 pm - Nobody Swings on Sunday, 52 min./All U Can Eat, 13 min.
5:30 pm - The Chosen People, 65 min.
7:30 pm - Le Tango des Rashevski, 97 min.
9:45 pm - Yossi & Jagger, 65 min.

**Monday, May 3**

11:00 am - Permission to Remember, 57 min./Sendler’s List, 45 min.
1:15 pm - Promised Land, 52 min./A Dream of Mother, 27 min.
3:15 pm - Blood from a Stone, 83 min.
5:30 pm - Impact of Terror, 52 min.
7:15 pm - The Children of Abraham & Sophie, 95 min.
9:45 pm - Abjad, 108 min.

**Tuesday, May 4**

10:45 am - The March of the Living, 49 min./The Last Witness, 48 min.
1:00 pm - Forget Baghdad, 114 min.
3:30 pm - Emma Goldman: An Exceedingly Dangerous Woman, 87 min.
5:45 pm - The Main Suspect, 61 min.
7:15 pm - Rosenstrasse, 136 min.
10:00 pm - School Ties, 107 min.

**Wednesday, May 5**

11:00 am - Hiding and Seeking, 87 min.
1:00 pm - In Satmar Custody, 70 min./My Brother’s Wedding, 36 min.
3:15 pm - Montreal Jewish Memories, 52 min./Inspiring Figure, 26 min.
5:30 pm - Checkpoint, 80 min.
7:45 pm - Divan, 77 min.
9:45 pm - Round Trip, 95 min.

**Thursday, May 6**

11:00 am - The Sunshine Boys, 111 min.
1:15 pm - Stalin’s Disciples, 90 min.
3:15 pm - It Is No Dream, 53 min.
5:00 pm - Looking for Victoria, 58 min.
7:00 pm - My Favorite Year, 92 min.
9:45 pm - The Hebrew Hammer, 85 min.

**Friday, May 7**

11:00 am - Professor Mamlock, 99 min.
2:45 pm - Mermaids, 111 min.
5:15 pm - Conversation with Richard Benjamin FREE

**Saturday, May 8**

9:30 pm - Wondrous Oblivion, 97 min./High Five, 3 min.
11:45 pm - Purim Safari, 47 min./Sanhedrin, 30 min./Jailbirds, 15 min.

**Sunday, May 9**

11:00 am - A Vilna Legend, 60 min./A Cantor on Trial, 10 min.
1:00 pm - Thunder in Guyana, 51 min./Backseat Bingo, 7 min.
3:15 pm - No. 17, 75 min.
6:00 pm - Almost Peaceful, 90 min./The Barber, 10 min.
8:30 pm - Berga: Soldiers of Another War, 86 min.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Film Title</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 2</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Sleeping with the Enemy</td>
<td>52 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2:00 pm</td>
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<td>65 min</td>
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<td>Strangers</td>
<td>7 min (Repeat)</td>
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<td>4:15 pm</td>
<td>1000 Calories</td>
<td>50 min</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Berlin Beshert</td>
<td>29 min</td>
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<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Insight</td>
<td>77 min</td>
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<td>A Little Bit Different</td>
<td>26 min</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8:30 pm</td>
<td>Amsalem’s Tears</td>
<td>54 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>The Postwoman</td>
<td>50 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 3</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Isaac Bashevis Singer</td>
<td>50 min</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gimpel the Fool</td>
<td>18 min</td>
</tr>
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<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>My Father’s Camera</td>
<td>59 min</td>
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<td>My Grandparents Had a Hotel</td>
<td>30 min</td>
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<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Le Tango des Rashevski</td>
<td>(Repeat)  97 min</td>
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<td>6:15 pm</td>
<td>Conversation with Jerry Faivish</td>
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<td>8:15 pm</td>
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<td>Increasing the Peace</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>FREE</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 4</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Black to the Promised Land</td>
<td>98 min</td>
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<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Mendel</td>
<td>93 min</td>
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<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Samuel Bak: Painter of Questions</td>
<td>48 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Sound Traveller</td>
<td>19 min</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:15 pm</td>
<td>Conversation with Karen Shopsowitz</td>
<td><strong>FREE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:15 pm</td>
<td>The Chosen</td>
<td>108 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 5</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Black to the Promised Land</td>
<td>98 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>A Life’s Work</td>
<td>61 min</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>The Orthodox Way</td>
<td>25 min</td>
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<td>Abjad (Repeat)</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>FREE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:15 pm</td>
<td>James’ Journey to Jerusalem</td>
<td>87 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 6</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>La Terza Luna</td>
<td>81 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Stateless, Arrogant and Lunatic</td>
<td>100 min</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Seekers of Happiness</td>
<td>84 min</td>
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<td>The Bund: Work and Revolution</td>
<td>11 min</td>
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<td>6:15 pm</td>
<td>Conversation with Benny Brunner</td>
<td><strong>FREE</strong></td>
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<td>8:15 pm</td>
<td>Perlasca</td>
<td>114 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 7</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>From Dachau With Love</td>
<td>77 min</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Gloomy Sunday</td>
<td>110 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 8</td>
<td>No programming</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 9</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Up Against the Wall (Panel)</td>
<td><strong>FREE</strong></td>
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<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Dziga and his Brothers</td>
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<td>Avant-Garde Jewish Wedding</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Rose’s Songs</td>
<td>98 min</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4:15 pm</td>
<td>Mutter</td>
<td>95 min</td>
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</table>

* Total running time (shorts included)  
** See page for film description
By Helen Zukerman, Executive Director

Here we grow again!

I am always astonished at the passage of time, but especially when I sit myself down to write this piece. You would think I’d get it right after eleven years.

I thought, “Here we go again,” but as I look back to the last year and forward to the next one, “Here we grow again,” seems more appropriate.

This past year we presented four special screenings at the Sheppard Grande (aka “Chai Tea & a Movie”) that were exceptionally successful and well attended. Last November, we held a weekend mini-festival of hits from past Festivals at City Playhouse in Vaughan. As we go to press, final preparations are being made for our first TJFF event geared to reaching out to younger audiences. Thanks to Lori Hoffman, a member of our Board, for spearheading this project.

We have expanded to two venues for the Festival itself, which allows us to respond to your requests for repeats, revivals, eclectic titles, and more free programmes and student/senior programmes. We are happy to be at the Al Green Theatre at the Miles Nadal JCC and look forward to seeing you there. The 12th annual TJFF showcases 94 films/events from 19 countries. Quite a step up from 1993 when we opened with 20 films from 10 countries!

Looking ahead, we will be back at the Sheppard Grande and City Playhouse in October and we will be showing films at the Leah Posluns as well. Also, we have been talking to York University about screenings for students. The presentation of Jewish content films opens up endless possibilities for discussion and dialogue. Film offers a non-threatening opportunity to break down stereotypes and barriers — this can only be good, and has always been the mandate of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival. We are succeeding in attracting a multicultural audience — 13 percent of people who answered our questionnaire last year identified themselves as not being Jewish.

We are literally limited only by the money available to program. Film festivals never make money, nor should they. We aim, instead, to educate and illuminate. What happens in the theatre is magic. We make magic for you and with you.

It is essential for me to thank the Festival staff. You will never find a more committed group of people dedicated to making this event so special. Thank you also to the over 100 volunteers, without whom we could not operate. Special thanks is due this year to Allen Karp and Ellis Jacob at Cineplex Galaxy. They always come through for us. The Toronto Jewish Film Festival could have no better friends!

And to you, our audience, thank you for making us part of your life, and for those of you who are able, for responding to our annual campaign. All of us are asked daily to support a myriad of causes. We are grateful to be counted as one of yours. Remember, every donation is important and gives you a special connection to the Festival.

Next stop is Bar/Bat Mitzvah year 2005. We have some wonderful special events planned so stay connected to us at tjff.com. Hint: an affordable, accessible fundraiser and evening of fun and frivolity.
The strength of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival has always been reflected in the wide range and rich diversity of films we show each year, depicting Jewish life around the world. These days, with the prevalence of racism and anti-Semitism, our non-stereotypical cinematic offerings become more important than ever.

This year’s supersized Festival covers the gamut of subject matter and genre. We have a very strong line-up of documentary films on the Middle East. Our compelling Opening Night premiere, Behind Enemy Lines, details the friendship of an Israeli policeman and a Palestinian journalist (with both men in attendance), and asks if their relationship can shine as a beacon for the future. Two films powerfully deal with terrorism (Impact of Terror; No. 17), while two others (The Wall, Une barriere contre la terreur) offer up sharp, contrasting views of the controversial ‘Wall’ that Israel is presently erecting. Conversely, we have also responded to your requests to increase the amount of non-political Israeli fiction at the festival. Like our recent Special Presentation of Broken Wings, those dramas and shorts go beyond the interminable Israeli - Palestinian conflict, to present snapshots of Israeli life that are universal in the issues and problems that they portray.

We also welcome distinguished actor / director Richard Benjamin, who will be honoured with showings of three films, The Sunshine Boys, My Favorite Year, and Mermaids, which highlight his talents behind and in front of the camera.

Guests — filmmakers and presenters alike - remain an important component of our Festival. This year, we have added “A Conversation With...” series to the TJFF. Local directors (Harry Rasky, Karen Shopsowitz), and international filmmakers (Benny Brunner, Richard Benjamin), all of whom have films at the TJFF, will be interviewed on their life and art. We also bring back Jerry Falvish, who will present a slide show devoted to his fascinating collection of Jewish movie posters, each of which is a story in itself. Best of all, the above-mentioned programmes, as well as our showing of Crown Heights, (with director Jeremy Kagan in attendance), are free.

On Closing Night we will be announcing the winner of the @ Wallace Jewish Film Award, for the best script submitted by a Canadian filmmaker. Special thanks to the sponsors of the award, the jury, and all the entrants.

There’s a lot more at the TJFF, of course. Remarkable true-life stories, such as our Closing Night powerhouse, Berga: Soldiers of Another War. Entertaining, provocative features from countries like Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Iran. Our ‘bumpers’ from the talented students at Ryerson’s School of Image Arts, and David Stein’s wonderful Festival trailer. And a sure to be talked about panel, Up Against the Wall, where filmmakers will discuss their view of and responsibility towards Israel. That’s only the tip of the iceberg in this year’s exciting edition of the TJFF. You’re in for many treats!
Free Programmes

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival presents more free programmes than ever before. Keep checking www.tjff.com for up-to-date information. Tickets are required for free events and screenings, which are on a first-come, first-served basis.

SERIES: A CONVERSATION WITH...
Audiences have a chance to meet Canadian and international filmmakers / guest speakers up close and personal in this special TJFF series. In-depth conversation in an intimate setting — about the artistry, the craft, and the business of filmmaking.

MON. MAY 3
6:15 pm  A Conversation with Jerry Faivish
Miles Nadal JCC
Toronto collector/expert Jerry Faivish presents a slide presentation on the art and history of the Jewish movie poster. Mr. Faivish has spoken internationally on the topic, and his invaluable poster collection has been displayed in museums throughout the world. In 2002 they were an integral part of an exhibition mounted by the Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archives at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

TUES. MAY 4
6:15 pm  A Conversation with Karen Shopsowitz
Miles Nadal JCC
Films exploring her family history and other social issues distinguish Toronto filmmaker Karen Shopsowitz’s large body of work. Her credits include My Grandparents Had a Hotel (1984); A Lot to Share (1989); My Father’s Camera (2000); and Angel Light (2002).

WED. MAY 5
6:15 pm  A Conversation with Harry Rasky
Miles Nadal JCC
Veteran Toronto director Harry Rasky specialises in complex documentary films exploring art and artists. His credits include Homage to Chagall - The Colours of Love (1975); Arthur Miller on Home Ground (1979); Karsh – The Searching Eye (1986); and Nobody Swings on Sunday (2003).

THURS. MAY 6
6:15 pm  A Conversation with Benny Brunner
Miles Nadal JCC
An Israeli filmmaker, based in Amsterdam, Benny Brunner provocatively examines the many aspects of Israeli - Palestinian life. His credits include Al-Nakba (1995); The Seventh Million (1997); It Is No Dream (2002); and The Wall (2003).

FRI. MAY 7
5:15 pm  A Conversation with Richard Benjamin
Bloor Cinema
Toronto Star columnist Martin Knelman interviews American actor / director Richard Benjamin. Benjamin has crafted an impressive body of work, often Jewish-themed, both in Hollywood and on television. Mr. Benjamin’s appearance is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOFSKY. See page 9.

SUN. MAY 9
10 am  UP AGAINST THE WALL (Panel Discussion)
Miles Nadal JCC
Standoff in the Middle East. The films about the conflict that screen at this year’s TJFF focus on boundaries and barriers: checkpoints, terrorism, suspicion, and the infamous Wall itself — emblematic of the great divide that separates Israelis and Palestinians. Can filmmakers have an impact and influence the peace process? Is there a double standard at play, for filmmakers within Israel and those in the Diaspora? An international panel, including filmmakers Dov Gil-Har and Benny Brunner, engage in a lively, provocative discussion on these and other issues. Moderated by columnist Shira Herzog.

The “Conversations with...” series at the Miles Nadal JCC and the Panel are presented by NOW Magazine.

FREE SCREENING
MON. MAY 3
8:15 pm  CROWN HEIGHTS
Miles Nadal JCC
Starring Howie Mandel and Mario Van Peebles. Director Jeremy Kagan will be in attendance. See page 17 for programme description. Screening made possible by Showtime Networks Inc.
RICHARD BENJAMIN: FUNNY MAN / FILMMAKER

Actor / Director Richard Benjamin has reinvented himself several times in a long career that has seen him find new fans without losing any of the older ones in the process. He first came to public notice in the 1960s as the star (with wife Paula Prentiss) of the short – lived but critically acclaimed TV series He & She. Then he hit the big screen, starring in two controversial Philip Roth adaptations, Portnoy’s Complaint and Goodbye, Columbus as well as such popular movies as Catch 22 and The Sunshine Boys.

If that wasn’t enough, he then switched gears and became a director, helming a diverse group of films which starred a veritable Hollywood Who’s Who, including Sean Penn (Racing with the Moon), Tom Hanks (The Money Pit), Cher (Mermaids), Peter O’Toole (My Favorite Year) and Sidney Poitier (Little Nikita). He also worked in television, with such prestigious credits as Laughter on the 23rd Floor (TJFF 2001), The Pentagon Wars and, most recently, a remake of The Goodbye Girl, starring Jeff Daniels and Patricia Heaton. He still acts, too, appearing in Woody Allen’s Deconstructing Harry and his own Marci X.

Eternally boyish, smart and funny, and incredibly diverse in his range of interests and mastery of genres, Richard Benjamin remains firmly in the public eye, even as he mostly works behind the camera. People still know who he is and, more significantly, want to see what’s he up to next. With Richard Benjamin as a special guest of the TJFF, here’s your chance to find out what he’s all about – Shlomo Schwartzberg.

The TJFF is pleased to show three of Mr. Benjamin’s films: The Sunshine Boys, My Favorite Year and Mermaids. Mr. Benjamin will also be interviewed by Toronto Star columnist Martin Knelman, on Fri. May 7 at 5:15 pm. Look for Richard Benjamin’s filmography in the Programme Book centrefold.

Mr. Benjamin’s appearance is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOFSKY
Opening Night Film

BEHIND ENEMY LINES
WORLD PREMIERE
ISRAEL, 2003, video, 65 min.
Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles
Director: Dov Gil – Har

Can friendship between Israelis and Palestinians surmount the barriers of mistrust afflicting both sides in the current Middle East conflict? Filmmaker Dov Gil – Har brings together two of the subjects of his earlier film Sleeping with the Enemy: An Israeli – Palestinian Journey to Japan (TJFF 2001) to see if it can do just that. Palestinian journalist Adnan Joulani and Israeli policeman Benny Herness meet face to face for the first time since the Intifada broke out. Each of them is asked to take the other to specific places in “his” world, in a valiant effort to try to get the “enemy” to understand his point of view. Can their warm personal relationship actually make a difference? By daring to ask that pertinent question, the masterful Behind Enemy Lines stands out from the pack.

Dov Gil – Har, Adnan Joulani and Benny Herness will all be in attendance.

with

STRANGERS
CANADIAN PREMIERE
ISRAEL / USA, 2003, 35mm, 7 min.
Directors: Erez Tadmor, Guy Nattiv
Cast: Guy Loel, Sami Samir

A Jew and a Muslim on the Paris subway. It’s not what you expect!

Audience Award Winner-Short Subject, Sundance Film Festival, 2004
Screening: Saturday, May 1, 9:30 pm (Varsity)
Repeat Screening: Sunday May 2, 2:00 pm (UCC)

Opening Night generously sponsored by
Closing Night Film

BERGA: SOLDIERS OF ANOTHER WAR
USA, 2003, 35mm, 86 min.
Director: Charles Guggenheim

Approximately 6000 American GIs were among the Allied soldiers captured by the Nazis during wartime. While the conditions of the POWs were generally harsh, the Nazis reserved their worst venom for the American Jewish soldiers under their control. Berga: Soldiers of Another War is the eye-opening, disturbing tale of 315 American soldiers, known to be Jewish or suspected of being Jews, sent by the Nazis, in flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention, to be used as slave labour. Their stories, which finally bring this unexplored part of history to our attention, will haunt you. This superb documentary, the last from the late Charles Guggenheim (RFK Remembered; The Klan: A Legacy of Hate in America) is one you won’t soon forget.

Best of Festival, Columbus International Film and Video Festival, 2003
IDA / Pare Lorentz Award, 2003
CINE Golden Eagle Award, 2003

William Shapiro, an imprisoned American soldier, will be in attendance.

Screening: Sunday, May 9, 8:30 pm (Bloor)

Closing Night generously sponsored by
1000 CALORIES

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2002, video, 50 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Dalia Mavorah
Writer: Nava Semel
Cast: Esthie Zakheim, Dalit Kahan, Smadar Klachinski

When two friends accompany their unhappy, overweight friend to a fat farm, secrets are revealed, trusts are broken, and love is discovered. A bittersweet drama from Israel, starring the luminous Dalit Kahan (Song of the Siren, TJFF 1996). From the Reflections of Women TV series.

with

BERLIN BESHERT

GERMANY, 2002, video, 29 min.
German with English subtitles
Writer / Director: November Wanderin
Cast: Tamara Stern, Anat Fritz, Barbara Spitz

Jewish stories from Berlin. Two sisters: Dahlia, who doesn’t particularly care if her boyfriend is Jewish, much less religious, and Leah, who only wants a kosher Jewish girlfriend. When their mother hires a Jewish matchmaker to set them up with dates, the stage is set for some very funny scenarios. A biting, offbeat comedy about looking for — and sometimes finding — love in all the wrong places.

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 4:15 pm. (JCC)

ABJAD (THE FIRST LETTER)

FRANCE / IRAN, 2003, 35mm, 108 min.
Farsi with English subtitles
Writer / Director: Abolfazl Jalili
Cast: Mehdi Morady, Mina Molania, Sharare Roohy

On the eve of Iran’s 1979 Islamic Revolution, Emkan, a 16-year-old Muslim boy with an artistic bent and a rebellious nature, falls in love with Maassoum, a teenage Jewish girl. As he grows closer to her, and the country’s fundamentalists begin to make their impact felt, matters between the couple intensify. Beautifully shot and photographed, Abjad very subtly deals with its Jewish content and characters. The result is a ravishing film that’s a tender love story and an incisive political commentary.

Screening: Monday, May 3, 9:45 pm. (Bloor)
Repeat Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 4:00 pm. (JCC)
ALMOST PEACEFUL (UN MONDE PRESQUE PAISIBLE)

CANADIAN PREMIERE
FRANCE, 2002, 35mm, 90 min.
French with English subtitles
Director: Michel Deville
Writers: Michel Deville, Rosalinde Deville
Cast: Simon Abkarian, Zabou Breitman, Denis Podalydes

Set immediately following World War II, when Jewish survivors of the Holocaust struggled to pick up the pieces of their lives, Almost Peaceful is a sweet, leisurely snapshot of a particular time and place. As Albert re-establishes his Paris tailor shop, his dissatisfied wife Lea finds herself attracted to Charles, who is still vainly hoping that his family survived the camps. Other employees and customers of the shop indulge in their own affairs of the heart. In the humane spirit of French directors such as François Truffaut (The Last Metro) and Louis Malle (Au revoir les enfants), Almost Peaceful is a gentle and evocative film.

THE BARBER

CANADIAN PREMIERE
FRANCE, 2003, 16mm, 10 min.
French with English subtitles
Director: Jon J. Carnoy

Will a small-town barber strike a blow for the Resistance by cutting the throat of the German officer he is shaving?

Screening: Sunday, May 9, 6:00 pm (Bloor)

Programme generously sponsored by STEPHEN AND COOKIE SANDLER

AMSALEM’S TEARS

CANADIAN PREMIERE
ISRAEL, 2003, video, 54 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Oren Stern
Writer: Reshef Levi, Regel Levi
Cast: Moshe Ivgi, Reuven Dayan, Karen Koved

When he reluctantly commits his father to an old age home, local gangster Eli (Moshe Ivgi) is forced to come to terms with his dad's mortality and confronts his own inner emotional life in the process. As an Israeli version of Tony Soprano, TJFF favourite, Moshe Ivgi, (Cup Final, TJFF 2000) shines in this funny, offbeat and surprisingly tender drama.
THE POSTWOMAN
CANADIAN PREMIERE
ISRAEL, 2002, video, 50 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Dina Zvi Riklis
Writer: Aya Shva
Cast: Orly Silberschatz Banai, Moshe Ivgi, Jermaine Unikowski

A lonely mail carrier falls for a man (Moshe Ivgi) who has moved into the neighbourhood on her route. Intercepting a letter for him from a potential blind date, she decides to begin corresponding with him, under an alias. But how will she reveal herself to him and what will he do when he finds out who she is? A tender love story, from the Reflections of Women TV series.

Best Drama Award, Jerusalem International Film Festival, 2002 Best Production Award, for anthology - Reflections of Women, Jerusalem International Film Festival, 2002

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 8:30 pm. (JCC)

BLACK TO THE PROMISED LAND
ISRAEL / USA, 1990, video, 98 min.
Director: Madeleine Ali

An irresistible film that explores the meeting and co-existence of two disparate worlds. In Israel, eleven African-American high school students from Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, confront the culture of a people, a language, and a way of life different from anything they have ever known. Stereotypical expectations abound on both sides. Our joy is in watching these myths shatter. A TJFF revival.

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 12:00 pm. (JCC)
Repeat Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 12:00 pm. (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

TORONTO STAR
Official Newspaper Sponsor
**BLOOD FROM A STONE**

USA, 2003, video, 83 min.
Director: Phil Tuckett

When Sam Nyer, an American-Jewish veteran of World War II, encounters Israeli terrorism expert Yaron Svoray, the stage is set for a real life adventure that will take up the next fifteen years of Svoray's life. Leading the search for 40 uncut diamonds, hidden by Nyer, is a quest that changes Svoray, a real-life Indiana Jones, profoundly. Exciting, gripping and, finally, very moving, Blood from a Stone will keep you riveted in your seat.

Note: This is the uncut version of the film.

Rick Kojfman, Yaron Svoray's financial associate, who was involved in the quest for the diamonds, will be in attendance.

Screening: Monday, May 3, 3:15 pm. (Bloor)

**CHECKPOINT**

ISRAEL, 2003, video, 80 min.
Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles
Director: Yoav Shamir

Without narration or prompting the participants, Checkpoint, disturbingly, reveals an uncomfortable reality that plays its own part in the current Palestinian-Israeli political impasse.

VPRO Joris Ivens Competition Award, International Documentary Film Festival, Amsterdam, 2003.

Director Yoav Shamir will be in attendance.

Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 5:30 pm. (Bloor)

**THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM & SOPHIE**

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL / NETHERLANDS, 2002, video, 95 min.
Hebrew, German with English subtitles
Director: Benny Brunner

The three children of Abraham Braun and Sophie Schopf, including writer and former Knesset member Mordechai Bar-On, are just part of the family tree in Benny Brunner’s complex and subtle examination of the ties that bind. In this family, the roots begin with Abraham and Sophie, a Jewish man and a Catholic woman who came to Palestine in 1924. They also extend backwards to her German relatives in Breslau (now Wroclaw) and forward to an Arab son-in-law who gently spars with Mordechai, his staunchly Zionist father-in-law. Gradually, and leavened by Harry de Wit’s haunting, melancholy score, a fascinating picture of modern Israel and Jewish life today emerges. From Benny Brunner, whose films, The Wall and It Is No Dream, are also showing at TJFF 2004.
Director Benny Brunner will be in attendance.

Screening: Monday, May 3, 7:15 pm. (Bloor)

Programme generously sponsored by

THE GERALD SCHWARTZ and HEATHER REISMAN FOUNDATION

THE CHOSEN
USA, 1981, 35 mm., 108 min.
Director: Jeremy Kagan
Writer: Edwin Gordon
Cast: Robby Benson, Barry Miller, Rod Steiger, Maximillian Schell

A rich adaptation of Chaim Potok’s acclaimed novel, set in Brooklyn circa 1941, and revolving around the uneasy friendship between Danny Saunders (Robby Benson), the son of an influential Hasidic spiritual leader, and Reuven Malter (Barry Miller), whose father is a noted professor and Zionist activist. A rare cinematic look at the secular – religious conflicts in the Jewish community that continue to this day.

Grand Prix, Montreal World Film Festival, 1981

Director Jeremy Kagan will be in attendance.

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 8:15 pm (JCC)

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE
WORLD PREMIERE
CANADA, 2004, video, 65 min.
Director: Igal Hecht

A controversial documentary revolving around a so-called “Messianic” Jewish congregation in Toronto, which believes Jesus is the Messiah, and the Jews for Judaism organization, which seeks to prevent Jews from being converted to Christianity. Young ‘believers’ who have come to Christ speak out about why they believe in ‘Yeshua’. Other Jews explain why, according to scripture, Jesus could not possibly be the Messiah. The Chosen People deftly portrays issues that are of concern to many in the Jewish community today. From the director of Y.I.D.: Yehudeem in the Diaspora (TJFF 2003).

Director Igal Hecht and co-producer Ron Furman will be in attendance.

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 5:30 pm. (Bloor)
CROWN HEIGHTS
CANADIAN PREMIERE
USA, 2002, video, 90 min.
Director: Jeremy Kagan
Writer: Toni Ann Johnson
Cast: Howie Mandel, Mario Van Peebles, Jeremy Blackman


Followed by

INCREASING THE PEACE
CANADIAN PREMIERE
USA, 2002, video, 15 min.
Director: Jeremy Kagan

The Jews and African-Americans depicted in Crown Heights are profiled ten years after the fact.

Note: This is a free screening, generously made possible by Showtime Networks Inc.

Director Jeremy Kagan will be in attendance.

Screening: Monday, May 3, 8:15 pm. (JCC)

DIVAN
CANADIAN PREMIERE
USA / HUNGARY / UKRAINE, 2003, 35mm, 77 min.
English, Yiddish, Hungarian with English subtitles
Director: Pearl Gluck

A search for a sofa owned by Pearl Gluck’s great-great grandfather in Hungary, unearths more than she bargained for in this bittersweet documentary. The near legendary divan, reputedly slept on by scores of famous Hasidic rebbes, brings Gluck back into the fold of her Orthodox family and in close contact with her father, from whom she’s become estranged. Anchored by touching testimonies from other men and women, who have also strayed from their Orthodox roots, Divan tackles the big questions of faith, morality and the meaning of family, with sharp wit.

Director Pearl Gluck will be in attendance.

Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 7:45 pm. (Bloor)

Spotlight on Women Filmmakers generously sponsored by

DZIGA AND HIS BROTHERS
CANADIAN PREMIERE
RUSSIA, 2002, video, 52 min.
Russian with English subtitles
Director: Yevgeni Tsymbal

David Kaufman, known as Dziga Vertov, directed the landmark 1929 Russian documentary film Man with
a Movie Camera. Moisey (Mikhail) Kaufman starred in Dziga’s film and was a renowned Soviet cameraman too. Boris Kaufman collaborated with the legendary French filmmaker Jean Vigo (L’Atalante) and then went to Hollywood, winning fame and fortune as a cinematographer (On the Waterfront, The Pawnbroker). The tumultuous lives of the three Kaufman brothers exemplified the history of the cinema and of the major political events that made up the twentieth century. Revolutionary artists all, the Russian-Jewish brothers are brought to vivid life, through their correspondence, remembrances from their loved ones and, most of all, their timeless, pioneering cinematic works. Using rare footage from Russian State film archives and private collections, Dziga and His Brothers pays homage to three genuine masters whose influences are with us still.

Gerald Pratley, adjunct professor, film studies at Ryerson, film historian and author will speak on the film.

with

AVANT-GARDE JEWISH WEDDING
WORLD PREMIERE
CANADA, 2004, video, 7 min.
Director: Melissa Shiff

When they married, filmmaker Melissa Shiff and her new husband Louis Kaplan, decided to incorporate experimental film and video techniques to pay homage to their ancestors and create new Jewish rituals, traditions and hopes for the future. Something old, something borrowed, something new!

Filmmaker Melissa Shiff will be in attendance.

Screening: Sunday, May 9, 12:00 pm. (JCC)

EMMA GOLDMAN:
AN EXCEEDINGLY DANGEROUS WOMAN
USA 2003, video, 87 min.
Director: Mel Bucklin

The remarkable Emma Goldman, anarchist, revolutionary and passionate fighter for women’s rights, is profiled in Mel Bucklin’s incisive and comprehensive documentary. ‘Red Emma’ as she was labeled by the tabloids, made her mark in early 20th Century America, even as she accumulated enemies. Emma Goldman: An Exceedingly Dangerous Woman, however, goes beyond her politics to get at the passionate, driven human being who influenced and impressed so many. It’s a stirring portrait of an extraordinary person.

Director Mel Bucklin will be in attendance.

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 3:30 pm. (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

TORONTO STAR
Official Newspaper Sponsor
FORGET BAGHDAD
TORONTO PREMIERE
GERMANY / SWITZERLAND, 2002, 35mm, 114 min.
Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles
Writer / Director: Samir

After the proclamation of the State of Israel in 1948, more than half a million Jews, including about 100,000 Iraqis, were forced to leave the Arab lands where they had lived for thousands of years. Samir, a Swiss-raised Shiite Muslim filmmaker, felt an affinity with those ‘Oriental’ Jews, who were not exactly welcomed with open arms by the dominant Ashkenazi majority in Israel. They, like Samir, often felt that their adopted country made them strangers in a strange land. Four Iraqi-born Israelis, including Sami Michael, author of Trumpet in the Wadi (TJFF 2003), speak about growing up in Iraq, their reactions to and feelings about living in Israel, and their radical political beliefs, which are often at odds with those around them. Forget Baghdad is a revealing and timely testimony to a more ‘innocent’ time, when Jews and Muslims were neighbours rather than enemies.

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 1:00 pm. (Bloor)

FROM DACHAU WITH LOVE
CANADIAN PREMIERE
GERMANY, 2003, video, 77 min.
English, German, Polish with English subtitles
Director: Bernd Fischer

The picturesque German town of Dachau has many attractions but it’s best known for one thing, the concentration camp which bore its name. The townspeople have mixed feelings about that fact, with many wanting to downplay that reality and market the town to tourists. Others are determined to keep the truth alive. Gradually, a multi-layered portrait of Dachau, drawn by a filmmaker who grew up there, emerges. It’s not a pretty picture.

Screening: Friday, May 7, 12:00 pm. (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by
TORONTO STAR
Official Newspaper Sponsor
**GLOOMY SUNDAY**

**GERMANY, 1999, 35mm, 110 min.**

German with English subtitles

Director: Rolf Schübel

Writers: Rolf Schübel, Ruth Toma

Cast: Ben Becker, Stefano Dionisi, Joachim Krol, Erika Marozsán

A love quadrangle is at the centre of this glossy melodrama set in Hungary before, during and after the war. Laszlo, the Jewish owner of a popular Budapest cafe, and Andras, the gentle pianist he hires to play in his restaurant, both love the beautiful waitress, Ilona. So does Hans, a seemingly guileless young man who soon joins the Nazi party. His actions, and Andras’ dangerous musical composition, Gloomy Sunday, play a part in the fate of the foursome. Gently mixing drama and humour, and offering up a neat twist ending, Gloomy Sunday is a highly original, potent brew. A TJFF revival.

Screening: Friday, May 7, 2:00 pm. (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

**THE HEBREW HAMMER**

**USA, 2002, 35mm, 85 min.**

Writer / Director: Jonathan Kesselman

Cast: Adam Goldberg, Andy Dick, Mario Van Peebles, Judy Greer, Peter Coyote

Back by popular demand. Jew Power! The Hebrew Hammer, aka Mordechai Jefferson Carver (Adam Goldberg), swings into action when Santa Claus’ evil son, Damien (Andy Dick) decides to destroy Hanukkah. Allied with Muhammad Ali, Paula Abdul Rahim (Mario Van Peebles), head of the Kwanzaa Liberation Front, Hammer, the self described ‘baddest Hebe in the neighbourhood’, prepares to kick some gentile ass. Throwing political correctness out the window, and guaranteed to offend everyone, The Hebrew Hammer is the most outrageous spoof to come along since The Producers. Sacrilegious, fearless and hysterically funny!

Warning: Language and sexual situations

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 9:45 pm. (Bloor)
HIDING AND SEEKING: FAITH AND TOLERANCE AFTER THE HOLOCAUST
USA, 2003, video, 97 min.
English, Yiddish, Polish with English subtitles
Directors: Menachem Daum, Oren Rudavsky

A deeply personal and exceptionally moving story. While proud of his sons, who are Orthodox Yeshiva students in Israel, filmmaker Menachem Daum (A Life Apart: Hasidism in America) is concerned that they are leading too insular a life, disconnected from the non-Jewish world. He takes them on a journey to Poland, in search of the Catholic couple who rescued their grandfather. What happened on that trip had a profound effect on them. A masterful documentary.

Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 11:00 am. (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

TORONTO STAR
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IMPACT OF TERROR
WORLD PREMIERE
CANADA, 2004, video, 52 min.
Director: Tim Wolochatiuk

In August 2001, a bomb destroyed a Sbarro pizza restaurant in downtown Jerusalem. Fifteen people died in the explosion; another 130 were injured, many seriously. Evocatively, Impact of Terror revisits that tragic event, interviewing the survivors and the families of the dead. Playing out almost as a thriller, slowly revealing the fate of those in the restaurant at the time, the deeply moving Impact of Terror brings home the danger – and the long-term repercussions – of the terrorism Israelis face virtually every day.

Director Tim Wolochatiuk, Producer Ric Bienstock, Executive Producer Simcha Jacobovici and Orley Pincuk, a volunteer who was at the Sbarro site after the bombing, will be in attendance.

Screening: Monday, May 3, 5:30 pm. (Bloor)
IN SATMAR CUSTODY

CANADIAN PREMIERE
ISRAEL, 2003, video, 70 min.
English, Hebrew, Yiddish with English subtitles
Director: Nitzan Gilady

Comprising over 100,000 members, the fiercely anti-Zionist Satmars are the largest Hasidic sect in the world. As part of their outreach, they aim to bring all the Yemenite Jews to America, rather than Israel. The Jaradis were one of the many Yemenite families brought to Monroe, New York by the Satmars. The culture clash between the Jaradis’s traditional practices and those of the Satmars were difficult enough, but when their 2 1/2 year-old daughter died under suspicious circumstances, they entered a new nightmare. In Satmar Custody is a disturbing look at the underbelly of fundamentalist religious life in America.

Winner, Le Prix Planète, Marseille Documentary Film Festival, 2003

MY BROTHER’S WEDDING

CANADIAN PREMIERE
USA, video, 36 min.
Director: Daniel Akiba

Growing up, Dan Akiba had a uniquely close relationship with his brother Jonah, much of it documented on film by their photographer father. Now Jonah has become ultra-Orthodox and is getting married in a Hasidic ceremony in Israel. The invitation to Jonah’s wedding brings Dan’s conflicted feelings about his brother’s new lifestyle to the surface in this revealing portrait.

Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 1:00 pm. (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

TORONTO STAR

Official Newspaper Sponsor
INSIGHT
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
ISRAEL, 2003, video, 77 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
Writer / Director: Eyal Halfon
Cast: Alon Aboutboul, Dan Shapira, Moshe Folkenfich

After the chaos of the just ended Yom Kippur War, a religious Israeli soldier tries to find his childhood friend, who is feared dead in a tank battle. Eyal Halfon, whose film The Italians are Coming opened TJFF 1997, has created a powerful, deeply moving drama about war, camaraderie and responsibility. Based on Haim Sabato’s acclaimed novel, Adjusting Sights, it’s also made unique inroads in Israel’s religious community.

Best TV Drama, Jerusalem International Film Festival, 2003

ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER
“...ABOUT A HIDDEN GOD...”
FRANCE, 1998, video, 50 min.
Director: Isy Morgensztern
An affectionate tribute to the late, great Yiddish writer. He speaks about his fame, his Nobel Prize for Literature, why he writes in Yiddish, and his philosophy of love, sex, women and Judaism. With arresting historical footage of the young Singer and narrated excerpts from his books and stories. A TJFF revival.

with

GIMPEL THE FOOL
USA, 1994, video, 18 min.
English and Yiddish
Director: Ezra Schwartz
A lovely, animated, bilingual rendition of one of Isaac Bashevis Singer’s best known fables. A sardonic and touching film about the foolish Gimpel, the scheming woman he marries and his fate. A TJFF revival.

In honour of the Centenary of Isaac Bashevis Singer’s birth.

Screening: Monday, May 3, 12:00 pm. (JCC)

A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT
WORLD PREMIERE
ISRAEL, 2003, video, 26 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
Writer / Director: Rachell Scheinfeld-Gadot
Cast: Elian Duval, Oren Zeltzer

Independent, prickly Chava rejects Moshe, the date her Orthodox parents have arranged for her, simply because of his physical disabilities. Could it be, however, that she has a lot more in common with him than she can admit? A tender love story from the Ma’ale School of Television and Film.

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 6 pm (JCC)
IT IS NO DREAM
CANADIAN PREMIERE
ISRAEL, 2003, video, 53 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
Directors: Benny Brunner, Joseph Rochlitz

Figures from Israel’s left — writers, journalists, and human rights workers — voice their concerns and criticisms about the occupation, the Intifada, and Israeli-Palestinian relations. They speak out with remarkable candour and passion about the mistakes they feel their country is making. Theirs is not an Israeli view we’re used to hearing but it’s part of the thriving, lively democratic debate currently going on in Israel. It is No Dream is an important, relevant film that must be seen.

Directors Benny Brunner and Joseph Rochlitz will be in attendance.

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 3:15 pm (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by
TORONTO STAR
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JAMES’ JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM
ISRAEL, 2003, video, 87 min.
English, Hebrew, Zulu with English subtitles
Director: Ra’anan Alexandrowicz
Writers: Ra’anan Alexandrowicz, Sami Duenias
Cast: Siyabonga Melongisi Shibe, Arie Elias, Salim Daw

When James (Siyabonga Melongisi Shibe), a religious African Christian, sets out for the Holy Land he’s envisioned from the Bible, he’s unprepared for his treatment in modern Israel. He’s immediately jailed by an immigration officer, who thinks he’s trying to sneak into the country illegally, then bailed out by businessman Shimi (Salim Daw), who promptly exploits him for cheap labour. It’s only when James learns how the capitalist game is played that he begins to find his place in Israeli consumer society. The first feature by documentary filmmaker Ra’anan Alexandrowicz (The Inner Tour, TJFF 2002), James’ Journey to Jerusalem brims with wit, clever dialogue and memorable characters, as it casts a critical but loving net over a country whose socialist dream has gone a little bit wrong.

Best Actor in an Israeli Feature Film, Siyabonga Melongisi Shibe, Jerusalem International Film Festival, 2003
Honorable Mention, Feature, Jerusalem International Film Festival, 2003

Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 8:15 pm (JCC)
A LIFE’S WORK
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
ISRAEL, 2003, video, 61 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
Writer / Director: Gadi Nemet
Cast: Shmulik Kalderon, Irit Gidron, Yonatan Cherchi

Successful businessman Jacob returns to the kibbutz he left many years ago, in order to acquire its fading cosmetics factory. His return pits him against his ex-girlfriend Dorit, as well as her husband Hilik, who vows to fight the factory takeover at all costs. Filmed partially on location at Kibbutz Gal-On, A Life’s Work is a quiet elegy to a fast disappearing way of life.

with

THE ORTHODOX WAY
WORLD PREMIERE
Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Ilan Eshkoli
Cast: Ronen Yifrac, Shelly Feldman

When Eli accidentally picks up Michal, thinking she’s his blind date, the contrary duo are thrown together in an amusing adventure, involving mistaken identity, three thugs, and a religious argument or two. A screwball comedy from the Ma’ale School of Television and Film.

Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 2:00 pm. (JCC)

LOOKING FOR VICTORIA:
AN ARGENTINE STORY
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
USA, 2004, video, 58 min.
English, Spanish with English subtitles
Director: Ton Vriens

At the age of eighteen months, Adriana Lewi lost her parents. Her Jewish father and Catholic mother were among the ‘disappeared’, the estimated 30,000 Argentineans murdered by the dictatorship that ruled the country from 1976 – 83. Now a grown woman, with a child of her own, she sets out to find out more about what happened to her parents. It’s a quest that takes up three years of her life. Looking for Victoria is also an unforgettable portrait of a courageous young woman who dares to unearth a truth that most want buried. From director Ton Vriens (To Live with Terror, TJFF 2003).

Director Ton Vriens and Adriana Lewi will be in attendance.

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 5:00 pm. (Bloor)

Programme generously sponsored by

TORONTO STAR
Official Newspaper Sponsor
THE MAIN SUSPECT
CANADIAN PREMIERE
ISRAEL, 2003, video, 61 min.
Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles
Director: Yaky Yosha

The death of twelve Israeli-Arabs, during a protest demonstration in Israel in October 2000, galvanized the nation. It was the first time that Israeli-Arab citizens had joined Palestinians in voicing opposition to the Occupation, and their deaths brought up questions of their place in Israeli society. For veteran filmmaker Yaky Yosha, the chief villain of the piece was obvious; Alik Cohen, the charismatic, enigmatic Galilee police chief. Yosha, however, soon discovered that the truth behind the story was a lot murkier and less simple than first appeared. Culminating in a historic meeting between Cohen and a group of Israeli-Arabs, The Main Suspect is a challenging look at two solitudes.

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 5:45 pm. (Bloor)

MAME-LOSHN, KINDER-LOSHN
CANADIAN PREMIERE
ISRAEL, 2002, video, 54 min.
Hebrew, Yiddish with English subtitles
Directors: Tommy Schwarcz, Avi Lehrer

Yiddish in the Holy Land? Meet the writers, poets, editors and Yiddish lovers who are trying to revive the language in Israel. Traditionally hostile or indifferent to Yiddish, Israelis have been slow to embrace the tongue spoken by so many Jews for centuries. Now things are changing. The engaging Mame-Loshn, Kinder-Loshn offers hope that at least part of Israel’s future will be written in Yiddish.

Producer Hirsh Perloff will be in attendance.

DORA
CANADA, 1992, video, 18 min.
Director: Peggy Shkuda

A heartfelt profile of the indefatigable Dora Wasserman, founder of Montreal’s acclaimed Yiddish theatre. From the Adrienne Clarkson Presents TV series. This screening was made possible through the support of the CBC.

Dedicated to the memory of two pioneering Yiddishists, Dora Wasserman, founder and longtime director of Montreal’s acclaimed Yiddish Theatre, and Sara Rosenfeld, activist and co-founder of KlezKanada.

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 11:00 am. (Bloor)
THE MARCH OF THE LIVING
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
POLAND, 2003, video, 49 min.
Polish, German, Hebrew with English subtitles
Directors: Grzegorz Linkowski, Grzegorz R. Wroblewski

What would you do if you found out your ‘loving but strict’ father was, in fact, a Nazi War Criminal, responsible for the death of millions of Jews? That is the reality which has dogged young Martin Bormann Jr., whose father, Martin Bormann, was one of Hitler’s most trusted advisors and one of the architects of The Final Solution. Trying to make peace with his past and his tortured memories, Bormann attends the annual March of the Living, which commemorates the Holocaust and those who died in the camps. But is that enough?

THE LAST WITNESS
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
POLAND, 2002, video, 48 min.
Polish with English subtitles
Director: Michal Nekanda-Trepka

He escaped from the Treblinka concentration camp, along with 400 other Jews who successfully fought back against their Nazi captors. (Only 67 of them survived the war.) Now Samuel Willenberg has gone back to Poland to try to understand his life and fathom the motives, feelings and prejudices of the Poles who both helped and hindered him. A subtle evocation of Polish-Jewish relations, and of one man’s determination to make something meaningful out of his survival.

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 10:45 am. (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by TORONTO STAR
Official Newspaper Sponsor
MENDEL
NORWAY, 1997, 35 mm, 93 min.
Norwegian with English subtitles
Writer / Director: Alexander Røsler
Cast: Thomas Jüngling Sørensen, Teresa Harder, Hans Kremer

Growing up Jewish in Norway in the 1950s is hard enough for young Mendel (Sørensen), who has to cope with being different in an overwhelmingly Protestant country. It’s made even more difficult by the fact that his family refuses to discuss the Holocaust or the reasons why they were forced to leave their native Germany for a comparatively harsh existence in Scandinavia. A serious and sometimes comic coming of age tale set in an environment not normally associated with Judaism. A TJFF revival.

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 2:00 pm. (JCC)

MERMAIDS
USA, 1990, 35 mm. 111 min.
Director: Richard Benjamin
Writer: June Roberts
Cast: Cher, Bob Hoskins, Winona Ryder

Cher is a riot as a highly unconventional, peripatetic Jewish mother, leading her kids, including one daughter (Winona Ryder) obsessed with Catholic ritual, across the U.S. in the 60s. When the family ends up in a small Massachusetts town, she becomes involved with the local kosher butcher (Bob Hoskins) and considers settling down for a change. Poignant, witty and satirical, in equally effective measure, the underrated Mermaids showcases Richard Benjamin at his directorial best.

Director Richard Benjamin will be in attendance.

Screening: Friday, May 7, 2:45 pm. (Bloor)

Mr. Benjamin’s appearance is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY

Weekday Matinees presented by

TORONTO STAR
Official Newspaper Sponsor
MONTREAL JEWISH MEMORIES: STORIES OF THE WAR YEARS 1939 – 1945
TORONTO PREMIERE
CANADA, 2003, video, 52 min.
Director: Dov Okouneff

Various Montrealers, including Harry Gulkin (producer of Lies My Father Told Me), the late philanthropist Maxwell Cummings, and poet/writer Irving Layton, offer up reminiscences about their city during the turbulent war years. Anti-Semitism, relations with French-Canadians, Communism, the Holocaust and general day-to-day existence, are among the subjects brought to life. Terrific archival footage adds to this fascinating memoir.

Director Dov Okouneff will be in attendance.

with

INSPIRING FIGURE: THE LOUIS RUBENSTEIN STORY
TORONTO PREMIERE
CANADA, 2002, video, 26 min.
Director: Rosalind Raddatz

Louis Rubenstein was the first world figure skating champion and the first Canadian skater to compete abroad. He was also an all-round athlete, excelling at bicycling, curling and bowling. Later in life, he became a popular Montreal alderman and president of the YMHA. Inspiring Figure: The Louis Rubenstein Story is the remarkable profile of this revered Jewish athlete and respected public figure. With tributes from the International Olympic Committee’s Dick Pound and champion skater Barbara Ann Scott, this film restores Louis Rubenstein, who died in 1931, to his rightful place in sports – and Canadian – history.

Executive Producer, Iris E. Wagner will be in attendance.

Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 3:15 pm. (Bloor)
**MUTTER (MOTHER)**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

**SWITZERLAND, 2002, 35mm, 95 min.**

German, Hungarian with English subtitles

**Director: Miklos Gimes**

The indomitable figure at the center of Mutter fled her country in 1956, with her six-year-old son, after the Soviets crushed the Hungarian uprising and arrested – and later executed – her husband for his “counter-revolutionary activities”. She is forced to confront her tumultuous past when she returns home for the first time since those calamitous times. An emotional journey, a remarkable woman, an unforgettable film.

**Best Documentary Film Award, Hungarian Film Critics Association, 2003**

**Screening: Sunday, May 9, 4:15 pm. (JCC)**

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**MY FATHER’S CAMERA**

**CANADA, 2000, video, 59 min.**

**Director: Karen Shopsowitz**

Karen Shopsowitz brings her father and his filmmaking hobby to life, in this poignant portrait of a man and his home movies. Tracing a direct line from her dad’s passionate interest in film to her own present day career, she interviews archivists, filmmakers and historians on the value and role of amateur filming in recording history. All the while, Israel Shopsowitz’s home movies weave their magic spell.

**George Foster Peabody Award, 2001**

**Certificate of Merit, San Francisco International Film Festival, 2001**

**Bronze Plaque Award, Columbus International Film and Video Festival, 2001**

**with**

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**MY GRANDPARENTS HAD A HOTEL**

**CANADA, 1989, video, 30 min.**

**Director: Karen Shopsowitz**

The nostalgic story of The Monteith Inn, in the Muskokas, run by Karen Shopsowitz’s grandparents, Harry and Jennie Shopsowitz, from 1935 – 49. Originally seen as a haven for Canadian (and American) Jews who were kept out of restricted clubs, the hotel soon became a colourful part of the province’s Jewish history.

**Silver Apple, National Educational Film and Video Festival, Oakland, 1991**

**Screening: Monday, May 3, 2:00 pm. (JCC)**

**Weekday Matinees presented by**

**TORONTO STAR**

Official Newspaper Sponsor
MY FAVORITE YEAR
USA, 1982, video, 92 min.
Director: Richard Benjamin
Writers: Dennis Palumbo, Norman Steinberg
Cast: Peter O’Toole, Mark Linn-Baker, Jessica Harper, Lainie Kazan, Lou Jacobi, Joseph Bologna

A swashbuckling British actor (Peter O’Toole) creates havoc when he guest stars on a live TV variety show in the 50s. Richard Benjamin’s lovingly etched tribute to Sid Caesar’s classic Your Show of Shows has become a comedy classic in its own right, boasting one of O’Toole’s finest performances and a well-oiled cast of comic support. It’s as uproarious as comedies ever get.

Director Richard Benjamin will be in attendance.

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 7:00 pm. (Bloor)

Mr. Benjamin’s appearance is made possible by the generous support of SHIRLEY GRANOFSKY

MY STILLS: 1952 – 2002
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
ISRAEL, 2003, video, 63 min.
English, Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: David Perlov

Famed Israeli documentary filmmaker David Perlov (In Jerusalem) switches gears with this entrancing examination of the art of still photography. It was his last film before his death last December at age 73. Perlov uses his portable video recorder to photograph the residents of his varied Tel Aviv neighbourhood. He also visits his favourite haunts in Paris and pays tribute to his idols and influences, among them, photographer David Seymour, who documented Israel’s modern birth, and Emile Zola, the great French writer (J’Accuse). Narrated by Perlov, whose observations range from how television covered 9/11 to Israel’s consistently changing immigrant palette, My Stills: 1952 – 2002 makes us look at pictures in a whole new light.

Screening: Friday, May 7, 1:15 pm. (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by
TORONTO STAR
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NO. 17
ISRAEL, 2003, video, 75 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: David Ofek
When a suicide bomber blows himself up on an Israeli bus, 17 innocent people die. However, one of the bodies, burnt beyond recognition, goes unclaimed and the victim's identity remains unknown. Intrigued by this unusual case, the filmmakers set out to unravel the mystery of the dead person. Could it have been a foreigner, illegally working in the country? Or a tourist? Clues pop up and pan out, theories are discredited and still the filmmakers, now detectives, continue on their quest. A riveting documentary that crafts an indelible, moving portrait of a resilient society and people.

Screening: Sunday, May 9, 3:15 pm (Bloor)

NOBODY SWINGS ON SUNDAY

CANADA, 2003, video, 52 min.
Director: Harry Rasky

Renowned filmmaker Harry Rasky (The Song of Leonard Cohen; Homage to Chagall: The Colours of Love) takes a trip back to Toronto’s conservative past when no one was allowed to do anything fun and non-religious on the Christian Sabbath. It was also a time of rampant anti-Semitism and intolerance. Rasky tours the old parts of Toronto the Good, speaks to many who recall the good and bad times of the depression-era 30s, and muses about his own experiences growing up. Nobody Swings on Sunday brings an important part of Canadian history to indelible life.

Director Harry Rasky will be in attendance.

with

ALL U CAN EAT

TORONTO PREMIERE

CANADA, 2003, video, 13 min.
Director: Stevi Urben

Immigrant Abraham Novack speaks about his life in Montreal as images of the city flicker across the screen.

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 3:30 pm (Bloor)

PERLASCA: AN ITALIAN HERO

ITALY, 2002, video, 123 min.
Italian with English subtitles
Director: Alberto Negrin
Writers: Stefano Rulli, Sandro Petraglia.
Cast: Luca Zingaretti, Jerome Anger, Amanda Sandrelli,

Based on the amazing true story of Giorgio Perlasca, an Italian importer in Budapest, Hungary, who, through a complex set of circumstances ended up posing as the Spanish Charge D’affaires, saving 3,500 Jews from certain death in the camps. Well played by Luca Zingaretti in the lead, Perlasca also functions as an edge-of-your-seat thriller as the Italian sets out on his heroic mission.

Carlo Coen, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute will introduce the film

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 8:15 pm. (JCC)

PERMISSION TO REMEMBER

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL, 2003, video, 57 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Yael Kipper Zaretzky

When a group of survivors challenges the designation of Stephen Wermchuk as one of The Righteous Among the Nations, those gentiles who saved Jews during the Holocaust, they come into conflict with Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust museum. Though the survivors possess evidence that says otherwise, the board running Yad Vashem refuses to consider the possibility that a terrible mistake has been made. A disquieting look at an injustice done and never remedied.

with
SENDLER’S LIST
TORONTO PREMIERE
POLAND, 2002, video, 45 min.
English, Polish with English subtitles
Director: Michal Dudziewicz

If not for three American high school students, Irena Sendler, a Polish gentile who rescued 2500 Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto, would probably have lived out her life in anonymity. After studying her heroic exploits, the students decide they want to meet the heroine who pulled off the seemingly impossible. A moving examination of the meaning – and modesty – of heroism.

Special Jury Prize, Stockholm International Documentary Film Festival, 2003

Screening: Monday, May 3, 11:00 am (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by
TORONTO STAR
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PROFESSOR MAMLOCK
EAST GERMANY, 1961, 35mm, 99 min.
German with English subtitles
Director: Konrad Wolf
Writers: Konrad Wolf, Georg Engel
Cast: Wolfgang Heinz, Ursula Burg, Hilmar Thate

As the Nazis consolidate their power in Germany in 1933, Professor Mamlock (Wolfgang Heinz), a renowned chief of surgery in a university hospital, and a Jew, remains blind to the reality of what is going on around him. As fascists and communists fight in the streets, and anti-Semitism begins to manifest itself, Mamlock resists the attempts of his family, including his non-Jewish wife and radical son, to wake him to the new horrors of a threatening world. Based on the 1933 play by outspoken Jewish playwright Friedrich Wolf, which was censored by the Nazis, and directed by his son, Konrad, Professor Mamlock was one of the earliest German films to tackle the subject of the Holocaust. It’s also one of the finest films on the subject ever made.

Screening: Friday, May 7, 11:00 am (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by
TORONTO STAR
Official Newspaper Sponsor
PROMISED LAND
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
ISRAEL, 2003, video, 52 min.
English, Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Avy Hemy

As violence and terrorism continue to take their toll on Israelis, many of them are queuing up to go abroad. But why would any Jew consider immigrating to Germany, of all places? Avy Hemy profiles three Israelis, who are either already living there, thinking of moving there or holding onto a German passport, just in case... Hemy asks, after the Holocaust, do Jews have a right to even contemplate such a move? A provocative examination of a new reality.

with

A DREAM OF MOTHER
TORONTO PREMIERE
Israel, 2000, video, 27 min.
Director: Chava Schein
Hebrew, Amharic with English subtitles.

Dashe, a 19-year-old Ethiopian girl living in Israel, apprehensively awaits her mother’s arrival from Ethiopia. A poignant film from the Hadassah College of Technology.

Special Showcase, Milano Film Festival, 2001
Screening: Monday, May 3, 1:15 pm. (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

TORONTO STAR
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PURIM SAFARI: FREDERIC BRENNER’S JOURNEY AMONGST THE JEWS OF SOUTH AFRICA
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
ISRAEL / SOUTH AFRICA, 2003, video, 47 min.
English, Afrikaans with English subtitles
Director: Romi Kaplan

French photographer Frédéric Brenner roams South Africa to unearth the various facets of its changing Jewish community. From an ostrich farmer to a transvestite performance artist to a woman who runs a soup kitchen for her Black neighbors, Purim Safari blends humour and pathos to provocative effect. It’s a quirky and unique trip.

Director Romi Kaplan will be in attendance.

with
SANHEDRIN
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
UNITED KINGDOM, 2003, video, 30 min.
Director: Simon Brasse

Is it possible that the newly arrived Viennese, vegetarian boarder is who they think it is? A darkly comic, wryly English riff on identity, justice deferred and the pitfalls of vengeance.

also with

JAILBIRDS
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
ISRAEL, 1999, 16 mm., 15 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
Writer / Director: Ronit Pollak

Did Shula cheat on her jailbird husband David with Dror? Now out of prison, David is determined to find out the truth. A zany comedy of ill-manners from the Sam Spiegel Film & Television School, Jerusalem.

Special Mention, Haifa International Film Festival, 1999

Screening: Saturday, May 8, 11:45 pm. (Bloor)

ROSE’S SONGS
TORONTO PREMIERE
HUNGARY / ITALY, 2002, 35mm, 98 min.
Hungarian with English subtitles
Writer / Director: Andor Szilágyi
Cast: Franco Castellano, Zum Dávid, Djkos Rosic, Maia Morgenstern

As the noose tightens around Hungary's Jews in 1944, the patriarch of a Jewish family fights to save his loved ones, in this powerful drama of bravery and hope. Only the mellifluous voice of the reclusive opera star that sings out each evening prevents them from giving in to despair. But how long can they hold out? A memorable, engrossing film based on a true story.

Special Jury Mention, Best Feature Debut, Karlovy Vary Int'l. Film Festival, 2003

Screening: Sunday, May 9, 2:00 pm. (JCC)
ROSENSTRASSE

GERMANY / THE NETHERLANDS, 2003, 35mm, 136 min.
English, German with English subtitles
Director: Margarethe von Trotta
Writers: Margarethe von Trotta, Pamela Katz
Cast: Katja Riemann, Maria Schrader, Jurgen Vogel

Respected German filmmaker Margarethe von Trotta (Marianne and Julianne; Rosa Luxembourg) has taken a fascinating page from history and crafted a poignant tale of powerful devotion overcoming despotism and hatred. After assuming power in 1933, the Nazis quickly purged the country of its Jews. Some Jews, however, who were the husbands of German Christians, were protected and lived in relative safety in Berlin, until the winter of 1943. Then, suddenly arrested and put in detention, their fate seemed as final as that of the rest of the German Jews. That is, until their ‘Aryan’ wives intervened and began to stage demonstrations across the street from where the SS was holding their men. Starring Maria Schrader (Aimee and Jaguar), Rosentrasse is a touching, compassionate and inspirational love story for the ages.

Best Actress, Katja Riemann, Venice Film Festival, 2003

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 7:15 pm. (Bloor)

ROUND TRIP

CANADIAN PREMIERE
ISRAEL, 2003, video, 95 min.
English, Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Shahar Rozen
Writer: Noa Greenberg
Cast: Anat Waxman, Nathati Moshesh, Eyal Rozales

Frustrated with her life, 40-year-old bus driver Nurit decides to take a break from her perpetually unemployed husband. She packs up her two kids and leaves the small northern town of Qiryat Shemona for a new start in a neglected Tel Aviv neighbourhood. There, she falls into a relationship with Mushidi, the Nigerian nanny she’s hired to watch her children. Beautifully acted and strikingly directed, Round Trip will hold you in thrall.

Screening: Wednesday, May 5, 9:45 pm. (Bloor)

Spotlight on Women Filmmakers generously sponsored by DCM
**SAMUEL BAK: PAINTER OF QUESTIONS**  
*Canada, 2003, video, 48 min.*  
*Director: Christa Singer*

Artist Samuel Bak, a Holocaust survivor whose striking paintings reflect a turbulent, deeply felt life, is aptly profiled in Christa Singer’s warm, moving documentary. Bak’s unique artwork, his observations on his craft and testimonies from admiring curators adorn this deceptively simple portrait of a private man. Like the film, he’s not someone you’ll easily forget.

Director Christa Singer and producer Marike Emery will be in attendance.  
K. Corey Keeble, curator Western Art and Culture, Royal Ontario Museum, will introduce the film.

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**SCHOOL TIES**  
*USA, 1992, 35 mm, 107 min.*  
*Director: Robert Mandel*  
*Writer: Dick Wolf*  
*Cast: Matt Damon, Brendan Fraser, Chris O’Donnell, Ben Affleck*

A Jewish football player (Fraser), from a blue-collar background, encounters prejudice when he wins a scholarship to an exclusive prep school in the 1950s. Featuring a who’s who of then-unknown Hollywood stars, this sensitive drama packs a powerful punch. From the pen of the talented Dick Wolf (creator of Law & Order).

Screening: Tuesday, May 4, 10:00 pm. (Bloor)
SEEKERS OF HAPPINESS
SOVIET UNION, 1936, 35mm, 84 min.
Russian with English subtitles
Director: Vladimir Korsh-Sabin
Writers: Logen Zeltzer, Grigori Kobets
Cast: Mariya Blyumenthal-Tamarinia, V. Zuskin, L. Schmidt

Seekers of Happiness follows a Russian-Jewish family enroute to Birobidzhan, site of the Soviet Jewish Autonomous Region on the Chinese border. (L’Chyaim, Comrade Stalin!, TJFF 2002). Like many Jews from the Soviet Union and from abroad, they expect this Jewish “state” to be a promised land but the reality of life in this strange, new ‘utopia’ is a harsh eye-opener. Seekers of Happiness, which is also known as Birobidzhan: A Greater Promise, paints an overly optimistic portrait of life in Birobidzhan but remains a fascinating document of an almost forgotten time and place.

with

THE BUND: WORK AND REVOLUTION
WORLD PREMIERE
CANADA, 2004, video, 11 min
Directors: Andrea Feder, Carolina May

Toronto Bundists speak on their political beliefs, personal histories and how the left-wing worker’s organization impacted their lives in this charming short from Ryerson University students Andrea Feder and Carolina May, (who also contributed promotional ‘bumpers’ for TJFF 2003).

SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY:
AN ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN JOURNEY TO JAPAN
ISRAEL, 2000, video, 52 min.
Director: Dov Gil-Har

In recent years, the Japanese government, in an attempt to help the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, has sponsored mixed groups of Israelis and Palestinians on trips to Japan. The plan was for the two sides to get to know and understand each other better. Dov Gil-Har followed one such group, as they slept, ate, and argued together, while interacting with their delighted hosts who may have known little about Jews or Arabs. A TJFF revival.

Director Dov Gil-Har and two of the film’s subjects, Benny Her Ness and Adnan Jouhani, will be in attendance.

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 12:00 pm. (JCC)
STALIN’S DISCIPLES
TORONTO PREMIERE
ISRAEL, 1988, 35mm, 90 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
Writer / Director: Nadav Levitan
Cast: Hugo Yarden, Yossi Kanz, Rachel Dobson

The death of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin shakes up the die-hard Stalinists in a kibbutz, who not only have to mourn their fallen leader but are soon forced to absorb Khrushchev’s revelations of the crimes Stalin committed while in power. The offer of German reparations for Nazi war crimes only further tests their socialist resolve. A comic, classic gem, tinged with sadness, the little-seen Stalin’s Disciples affectionately mocks the political correctness of its day while exposing the foibles of its all too human cast of characters.

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 1:15 pm. (Bloor)

Weekday Matinees presented by

TORONTO STAR
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STATELESS, ARROGANT AND LUNATIC
SWEDEN, 1998, video, 100 min.
English, German with English subtitles
Director: Lena Einhorn

The amazing true story of Gilel Storch — a mysterious Latvian Jewish refugee in Sweden. He initiated talks with leading Nazi Heinrich Himmler to save Jews from the gas chambers in the waning days of the war. That Himmler would consent to meet with a Jewish representative, is just one of the many remarkable revelations in this documentary / drama. One of the strangest stories of World War II and an enthralling film. A TJFF revival.

Winner, Picture & Word Academy Award, Stockholm, 1998

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 2:00 pm. (JCC)

Weekday Matinees presented by

TORONTO STAR
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THE SUNSHINE BOYS
USA, 1975, video, 111 min.
Director: Herbert Ross
Writer: Neil Simon
Cast: Walter Matthau, George Burns, Richard Benjamin

Two famed vaudevillians, Lewis and Clark (George Burns, Walter Matthau), long estranged from each other, are reluctantly re-united for a TV special in Neil Simon’s hilarious satire. Based on the antics of real–life duo Smith and Dale, The Sunshine Boys highlights Burns and Matthau at their comedic best while offering a stellar turn by Richard Benjamin as Clark’s determined nephew / agent Ben.

Best Supporting Actor, George Burns, Academy Awards, 1976
Best Supporting Actor-Motion Picture, Richard Benjamin, Golden Globe Awards, 1976
Best Motion Picture Actor-Musical / Comedy, Walter Matthau, Golden Globe Awards, 1976
Best Motion Picture-Musical / Comedy, Golden Globe Awards, 1976

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 11:00 am. (Bloor)

Programme generously sponsored by SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY

Weekday Matinees presented by

TORONTO STAR
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LE TANGO DES RASHEVSKI (THE RASHEVSKI TANGO)
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
BELGIUM / FRANCE / LUXEMBOURG, 2003, 35mm, 97 min.
French with English subtitles
Director: Sam Garbarski
Writer: Philippe Blasband
Cast: Hippolyte Girardot, Ludmila Mikael, Michel Jonasz

When Grandmother Rosa suddenly dies, her various assimilated or half-Jewish family members are thrown into turmoil. Should her funeral service be a religious Jewish one? Should all the mourning customs be observed? The answers aren’t easy ones, especially when one granddaughter decides to return to her Jewish roots. A delicate mix of witty satire and thoughtful drama, Le Tango des Rashevski goes in directions you don’t expect, even as it smartly explores the many meanings of being Jewish today. From Sam Garbarski, director of the popular shorts La Dinde (TJFF 1999) and La vie, la mort et le foot (TJFF 2002).

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 7:30 pm. (Bloor)
Repeat Screening: Monday, May 3, 4:00 pm. (JCC)

Programme generously sponsored by

LA TERZA LUNA (THE THIRD MOON)
ITALY / SWITZERLAND / FRANCE, 1997, 35mm, 81 min.
Italian with English subtitles
Director: Matteo Bellinelli
Writers: Matteo Bellinelli, Daniel Goldenberg
Cast: Omero Antonutti, Roberto Citran, Alessandra Acciai

An architect’s assignment to renovate an old mansion in Venice brings him into contact with an elderly novelist and the young woman who takes care of him. As the architect becomes involved in the writer’s turbulent life, which includes a love affair with a Jewish girl during WWII, fact and fiction begin to meld. Ravishingly shot, The Third Moon is a gorgeous, hypnotic, cinematic illusion. A TJFF revival.

Screening: Thursday, May 6, 12:00 pm. (JCC)

THUNDER IN GUYANA
CANADIAN PREMIERE
USA, 2003, video, 51 min.
Director: Suzanne Wasserman

Who would have ever imagined that Jewish Chicago-born Janet Jagan, nee Rosenberg, would, at age 77, be running for president of Guyana? As a rebellious, independent young woman, in the conservative 1940s, she defied her family by marrying the charismatic Cheddi Jagan, an East Indian medical student. When
Jagan decided to return home to (then) British Guyana, hoping to effect democratic change in his homeland, Janet went with him. Covering years of political intrigue, passions and despair, Thunder in Guyana is further proof that the best stories come out of real life.

Nadira Jagan – Brancier, Janet Jagan’s daughter, will be in attendance.

**BACKSEAT BINGO**
**CANADIAN PREMIERE**
USA, 2004, 35mm, 7 min.
Director: Liz Blazer

Seniors talk about sex, their emotional needs and their expectations of life in this delightful animated film.

Bring your Mother and she gets in free, as a gift from the Festival!

Screening: Sunday, May 9, 1:00 pm. (Bloor)

Spotlight on Women Filmmakers generously sponsored by

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**A VILNA LEGEND (THE RABBI’S POWER)**
**POLAND, 1924 / USA, 1933, video, 60 min.**
Yiddish with English subtitles
Directors: Sigmund Turkoff 1924 / George Roland 1933
Narrator: Joseph Buloff
Original Cast: Ida Kaminski, Sigmund Turkoff
1933 Cast: Jacob Mestel, Leib Kodison, Benjamin Fishbein

The original cut of A Vilna Legend (also known as Tkies Kaf) was a ribald tale of frustrated love and destiny, and a broken vow, concerning the match of a yeshiva student and a poor girl. In 1933, a group of New York Yiddish actors decided to give the original 1924 silent film a makeover, adding Yiddish narration and several new scenes. Recently restored by the National Center for Jewish Film, A Vilna Legend remains one of the enduring classics.

with

**A CANTOR ON TRIAL**
**USA, 1931, 35mm, 10 min.**
Yiddish with English subtitles
Director: Sidney M. Goldin

Famous real-life Cantor Leibele Waldman plays multiple roles in this clever spoof on synagogue hiring practices. An uproarious Yiddish classic.

Dedicated to the memory of Jesse-Haberfeld Freedman and Louis Freedman.

Screening: Sunday, May 9, 11:00 am. (Bloor)
THE WALL
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
NETHERLANDS, 2003, video, 54 min.
English, Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles
Director: Benny Brunner

Israel calls it a terror prevention barrier. The Palestinians refer to it as a land grab. Those are the labels attached to a controversial wall, which is currently being built to separate Israel from the Territories. This highly critical point-of-view documentary, by outspoken filmmaker Benny Brunner (co-director of It Is No Dream, and director of The Children of Abraham & Sophie, TJFF 2004), attacks the wall as a “symptom” of what ails Israel. The Wall features Israeli leftists, such as journalist Amira Hass (Between the Lines, TJFF 2003) and political activist Haim Hanegbi, who condemn it in no uncertain terms, as well as Palestinians who decry its adverse effects on their livelihood. Topical as they come, The Wall, which was made for the Dutch newsmagazine show Counter View, is sure to engender debate and discussion.

Director Benny Brunner will be in attendance.

with

UNE BARRIERE CONTRE LA TERREUR
(A BARRIER AGAINST TERROR)
WORLD PREMIERE
French, Arabic, Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Michel Hait

Another powerful view of the wall. Tracing a path from the breakdown of the Oslo Accords, which the film blames on Yasser Arafat, to today’s unremitting climate of Palestinian terrorism, Une barriere contre la terreur suggests that Israel has no choice but to build a wall to protect herself and her citizens. A strong statement.

Director Michel Hait will be in attendance.
Screening: Sunday, May 2, 1:00 pm. (Bloor)

WONDROUS OBLIVION
UNITED KINGDOM, 2003, 35mm, 97 min.
Writer / Director: Paul Morrison
Cast: Delroy Lindo, Emily Woof, Stanley Townsend, Sam Smith

London, 1960, and sleepy 11-year-old David Wiseman is only interested in one thing: cricket. The problem is, he’s not very good at the game, and on the school team he has been relegated to the lowly role of scorekeeper. Then, to the horror of the neighbourhood, a Jamaican family moves in next door and David’s life suddenly changes. An engrossing, insightful look at race relations, racism and the plight of immigrants, Jewish and
Black, recently arrived in an intolerant land. Wondrous Oblivion avoids clichés in its deft sketching of a memorable time and place. From Paul Morrison, director of Solomon and Gaenor (TJFF 2000).

with

HIGH FIVE
USA, 1992, 35mm, 3 min.
Director: Rob Aden

Hasids hit the basketball court and challenge a team of African-American players to a game. A TJFF revival.

Screening: Saturday, May 8, 9:30 pm. (Bloor)

Programme generously sponsored by LINDA AND WILL HECHTER

YOSSI & JAGGER
Co – Presented with the Inside Out Toronto Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival
ISRAEL, 2002, 35mm, 65 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Eytan Fox
Writer: Avner Berenheimer
Cast: Ohad Knoller, Yehuda Levi, Assi Cohen.

Focusing on a tightly-knit Israeli army unit which is guarding the Lebanese border, Yossi & Jagger portrays the romantic relationship between two of its soldiers: Yossi (Oded Knoller), the quiet, by-the-books company commander, and the aptly nicknamed Jagger (Yehuda Levi), who has the charisma of a rock star. Jagger, whose army term is almost up, wants to come out of the closet, but Yossi, who’s a career military man, fears the repercussions. Beautifully directed by Eytan Fox, one of Israel’s best filmmakers (Song of the Siren, TJFF 1996), Yossi & Jagger is a deeply felt, complex and non-stereotypical story, a subtle and poignant telling of a moving love affair.

Warning: Scenes of sexuality

Screening: Sunday, May 2, 9:45 pm. (Bloor)
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