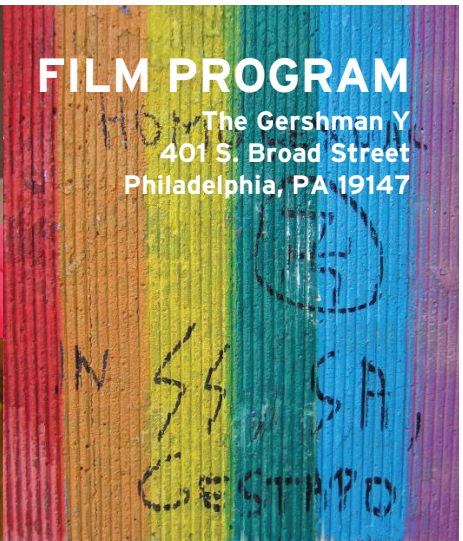




FILM PROGRAM

The Gershman Y
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PHILADELPHIA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

28TH ANNUAL SEASON
2008 - 2009



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the 28th season of the Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival! This year we present a Festival of Mini-Festivals...seven themed weekends, each featuring three films where patrons can immerse themselves in the ideas and techniques of master filmmakers.

In honor of the yearlong celebration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel, we kick things off with a series of three Israeli films. Following will be a Sports Weekend, French Weekend, Documentary Weekend, American Weekend, New Filmmakers Weekend, and a special Closing Weekend. We hope you will come to all of the films and make each weekend an artistic and social event with your film festival friends.

We will also continue to present our popular five-part Documentary and Dialogue Series on selected Monday evenings.

Our website www.PJFF.org is newly expanded and brings you the most up-to-date information about the Film Festival, as well as now providing online ticketing for all films and events. And if you're under 45, be sure to check out Young Friends of the PJFF and all the special events planned by this energetic and enthusiastic group, including a new subscription package.

As you know, arts and cultural programs are not possible without the financial support of a caring community. We are most grateful to our angels, benefactors, patrons, sponsors, contributing supporters, supporting foundations, the National Museum of American Jewish History, advertisers, special Benefactors Elaine Levitt and Joel Gershman, and all those whose moral and financial support make it possible to bring you the Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival.

To plan and produce our Film Festival requires the efforts of many people. I would like to express my thanks to our PJFF Committee and the supportive Board and Staff of the Gershman Y, especially our brilliant Artistic Director, Ruth Perlmutter; our dynamic Vice-Chair, Bonnie Squires; our creative Gala Chair, Sylvia Stern; our Film Research Sub-Committee; our new "volunteer" Bob Arrow; and our new Young Friends co-chairs Andrea Allmayer and Edward Meisarosh. Special thanks to our wonderful new Director of PJFF Programs, Olivia Antsis; to the Y's talented PR and Marketing Director, Donna Katz; to the ever supportive Chair of the Gershman Y, Louis Coffey; and to the supremely efficient and always helpful Interim Director of the Gershman Y, Nessa Forman.

I look forward to seeing you all "at the movies"!

JUDITH K. GOLDEN
CHAIR, PHILADELPHIA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

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Rohan De Silva, piano

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MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

My husband, Archie, loved and I think, exemplified Jewishness - its wit and intellect, its almost dead language, its emphasis on mending the world and the films that tell Jewish stories.

I, who followed his aegis as Artistic Director, marvel at how many good Jewish films are made each year from all over the globe. Now Israel, which represents a significant portion of the Jewish soul, has come into its own with a rich evolved film culture. Israeli films are collecting prizes and accolades everywhere from Cannes to Tribeca.

This year is particularly innovative. Beginning with our November homage to Israel in its 60th year as a Jewish state, we have programmed a mini-festival — that is, each month folks can get into the festival mode, by attending three different films on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. So, mark your calendars and devote a weekend a month to “festivaling” (my coinage).

Our values, our focus and our continuity, despite the perils that try to destroy us, are all part of the stuff that Jewish films are made of.

RUTH PERLMUTTER
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, PHILADELPHIA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

WE THANK OUR SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS

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the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts



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Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival
and
applaud your devotion
to the visual arts
through the
transforming power of film.

Lynne and Harold Honickman



THE HONICKMAN FOUNDATION



ABOUT PJFF

▲ *Arranged* 2007

This year marks the 28th year of PJFF, the second longest-running Jewish film festival in the United States. Our upcoming season includes a diverse and compelling line-up of independent films from across the globe, essentially a festival of festivals! From *Celebrating Sixty Years of Israeli Cinema* to a weekend of Jewish sports films – there is something special for everyone.

While selecting these exciting and challenging films we asked ourselves, “What is a Jewish film?” and “How do we define Jewish identity and values?” We invite you to join us and formulate your own answers to these questions.

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Holiday Events



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Sunday, December 14, 2:00-4:00pm

\$15 adults; \$10 children

The Moo Shu Jew Show

A meshugenna evening of Jewish inspired stand up comedy along with a 5 course Chinese dinner at Ocean City Restaurant in Philly's Chinatown!

Christmas Eve,

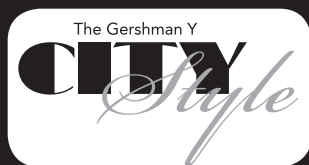
Wednesday, December 24, 6pm

\$55 advance; \$65 at door

Price includes comedy show, dinner, tax and tip

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Sunday, March 22 @ 2 PM

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(Tickets for the above screenings and receptions may also be bought at the door for \$20 each)

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The Secrets

Monday, November 3, 2008

6 PM Falafel dinner, 7 PM Screening
Co-sponsored with The Collaborative

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For more information on Young Friends,
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OPENING WEEKEND

CELEBRATING SIXTY YEARS OF ISRAELI CINEMA

NOODLE

DIRECTED BY AYELET MENAHEMI; WITH MILI AVITAL, BAOQI CHEN, ALON ABUTBUL, ANAT WAXMAN
ISRAEL, 2007, 90 MIN., IN HEBREW, ENGLISH AND MANDARIN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Noodle opens our 28th season. Directed by Ayelet Menahemi (*Tel Aviv Stories*) and co-written by Menahemi and Shemi Zarhin (*Aviva, My Love* and *Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi*), *Noodle* is a delightful comedy-drama in which two people resolve to defeat the barriers of language through empathy and love. Flight attendant Miri agrees to watch the 6-year-old son of her Chinese maid for "just one hour." When the boy's mother does not return, Miri must decide what to do with the innocent boy, who speaks only Chinese. To reunite "Noodle" (dubbed such on account of his exceptional slurping skills) with his mom, Miri must rise above her fears and limitations and sever her own maternal bonds of love.



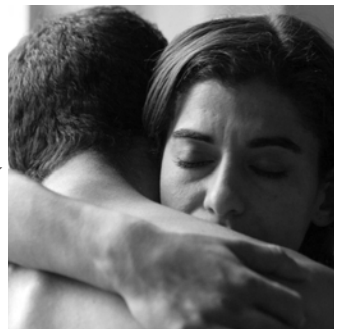
GUEST SPEAKER: NOAH STOLLMAN, *Screenwriter, Someone to Run With*
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 8PM

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

STRANGERS

DIRECTED BY GUY NATTIV; WITH LIRON LEVO AND LUBNA AZABAL
ISRAEL, 2007, 85 MIN., IN ARABIC, ENGLISH, FRENCH AND HEBREW,
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Handsome Eyal, an Israeli living on a kibbutz, and fetching Rana, a Palestinian soccer fan living in Paris, accidentally meet in a Berlin subway during the World Cup finals. The two have no idea their chance encounter will change their lives forever. Forced to share an apartment together, their relationship quickly deepens and they fall madly in love. Exploring one another outside the realm of Middle Eastern politics offers each an opportunity to see past the other's differences, but will their love overcome the painful truth of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2PM

OPENING WEEKEND, CONT.

THE SECRETS

DIRECTED BY AVI NESHER; WITH FANNY ARDANT, ANIA BUKSTEIN, MICHAL SHTAMLER
ISRAEL, 2007, 120 MIN., IN HEBREW AND FRENCH, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Defly tackling taboo subjects, such as feminism, sexual awakening and lesbianism, *The Secrets* proffers a fascinating inside view of women in the patriarchal world of the ultra-orthodox. The film is set in a women's seminary in the picturesque town of Safed, the birthplace of Kabbalah. It is here that students Naomi, the attractive and intelligent daughter of a revered rabbi, and her friend Michelle, a rebellious new arrival from France, start upon a secret, spiritual journey.



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 7PM

Our opening night program is in honor of the late Archie Perlmutter. These programs are supported by the Archie Perlmutter Endowment Fund and Bryna and Andrew Scott.

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DOCUMENTARIES & DIALOGUE

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

CONSTANTINE'S SWORD

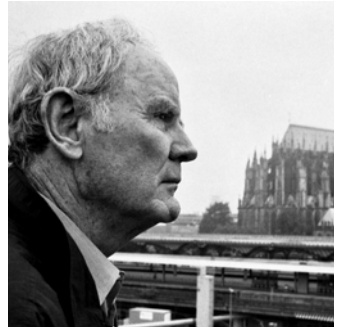
DIRECTED BY OREN JACOBY; WRITTEN BY JAMES CAROLL; WITH PHILIP BOSCO,
NATASHA RICHARDSON, ELI WALLACH
DOC., USA, 2007, 93 MIN.

Warning of the dangers of joining military power and religious fervor, *Constantine's Sword* asks the timely question: Is the fanaticism that threatens the world today fueled by our own deeply held beliefs? The latest film by Oscar-nominated Oren Jacoby is an astonishing exploration of the history of anti-Semitism. The film follows acclaimed author and former priest James Carroll on a journey of remembrance and reckoning.

Carroll, a National Book Award winner and columnist for the *Boston Globe*, is a practicing Catholic whose search for the truth leads him to confront persecution and violence in the name of God. He discovers a terrible legacy of religiously sanctioned violence across the centuries: from the Emperor Constantine's vision of the cross as a sword and symbol of power, to the Church's anti-Semitic sins of commission and omission, to the modern reverberations of religious extremism.

GUEST SPEAKER: JONATHAN STEINBERG, *Walter H. Annenberg Professor of Modern European History, University of Pennsylvania*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 7PM



This program is supported by the National Museum of American Jewish History

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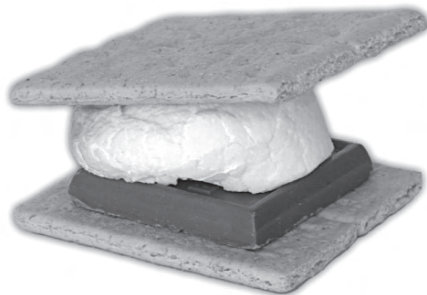
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SPORTS WEEKEND

SURFWISE

DIRECTED BY DOUG PRAY
DOC., USA, 2008, 93 MIN.

For the legendary Paskowitz clan, riding waves was never just a pastime. It was their life. Directed by Doug Pray, *Surfwise* traces the unconventional family of Dorian "Doc" Paskowitz, who abandoned two marriages and a successful physician's practice for a transient life of surf and sun. His quickly growing brood moved from one competition to the next in their trailer home, and word of their talent quickly spread. But without any real education, community or friends, the Paskowitz children soon found themselves ill-equipped for the realities of life on land. This edgy and controversial documentary shows a family's rise and fall under the weight of their ego-maniacal patriarch's single obsession.



GUEST SPEAKER: SALMAN AKHTAR, *Professor of Psychiatry, Jefferson Medical College; Training and Supervising Analyst, Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia; and author/editor of over forty books*
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 8PM

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

ORTHODOX STANCE

DIRECTED BY JASON HUTT
DOC., USA, 2007, 83 MIN., IN HEBREW, ENGLISH, RUSSIAN AND SPANISH, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Ever wonder what it's like balancing daily prayer with weight training or separating business deals from one's spiritual quest for identity? In *Orthodox Stance*, 24-year-old Russian immigrant Dmitriy Salita has shown the world that the "Jewish boxer" can still pack in the punches! The boxing world has never before confronted a Sabbath-observing boxer, and Salita's rabbis and friends have never before rooted for one of their own! *Orthodox Stance* is a portrait of seemingly incompatible cultures and individuals working together to support Salita's rare and remarkable devotion to both Orthodox Judaism and the pursuit of a professional boxing title.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2PM

SPORTS WEEKEND, CONT.

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

MAX BAER'S LAST RIGHT HOOK

DIRECTED BY AVIDA LIVNY; WITH YOSEF CARMON, NATAN COGAN, YEHUDA FUX
ISRAEL, 2006, 54 MIN., IN HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

During World War II, unlucky entrepreneur Yaakov Gendelmayer comes up with a brilliant publicity stunt. He will arrange a fight in Palestine between Max Baer, a Jewish former heavyweight boxer and Schatzschneider, a German boxer. Under the assumption that Baer will win, Gendelmayer sees the fight as a perfect opportunity to raise Jewish morale and earn him enough money to move to the United States. Of course, the fight does not go as planned, and in order to uncover the truth about Max's "last right hook," Gendelmayer's son, Joe, travels to Israel sixty years later. Though the story is fictional, Avida Livny's mockumentary shows us what could have happened had the event taken place.



GUEST SPEAKER: J. RUSSELL PELTZ, *President of Peltz Boxing Promotions and International Hall of Fame Boxing Promoter*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 7PM

These programs are supported by the Philadelphia Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and The National Museum of American Jewish History

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FRENCH WEEKEND

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

A SECRET (UN SECRET)

DIRECTED BY CLAUDE MILLER; WITH CÉCILE DE FRANCE, PATRICK BRUEL, LUDIVINE SAGNIER, JULIE DEPARDIEU, MATHIEU AMALRIC
FRANCE, 2007, 110 MIN., IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Based on the best-selling novel by Phillipe Grimbert, *A Secret (Un Secret)* is told through the eyes of fifteen-year-old Francois who, haunted by visions he cannot understand, unearths a shocking family secret. Brilliantly portrayed with a complex, suspenseful flashback sequence spanning half a century, *A Secret* is a gripping tale of passion and guilt set amidst the backdrop of Nazi-occupied France and the emergence of a "real cult of the body, physical beauty and athletics."

GUEST SPEAKER: DANIELE THOMAS EASTON, *Director, France-Philadelphie and Former Honorary Consul of France in Philadelphia and Wilmington*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 8PM



PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

LIKE YOUR FATHER (COMME TON PÈRE)

DIRECTED BY MARCO CARMEL; WITH GAD ELMALEAH, Yael Abecassis
FRANCE, 2007, 95 MIN., IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In this smart comedy set in the early seventies, Felix, his wife Mireille, and their two children, Eric and Michel, leave Israel for Marseille. Times are tough for Felix's French-Jewish family. With dreams of grandeur, Felix meets Serge, a Jewish gangster who invites Felix to join his gang. In *Comme ton père*, director Marco Carmel splendidly blurs the line between truth and fantasy and links the personal history of the Maimon family with the events marking the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at the height of the Yom Kippur War.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2PM



FRENCH WEEKEND, CONT.

TWO LADIES (DANS LA VIE)

DIRECTED BY PHILIPPE FAUCON; WITH SABRINA BEN ABDALLAH, ARIANE JACQUOT, ZOHRA MOUFFOK

CANADA, 2007, 73 MIN., IN FRENCH AND ARABIC, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Prejudices are cast aside when Selima, a young Moroccan Arab nurse, takes a job caring for Esther, an elderly, hot-tempered, wheelchair-bound Jew from Algeria. When Esther's housekeeper quits, Selima calls in the help of her very religious mother, Halima, to take over the cooking and cleaning in Esther's kosher home. Eager to earn extra money for her long awaited pilgrimage to Mecca, Halima jumps at the opportunity. When Esther's son is forced to leave home for work reasons, Esther moves in with Halima. The two women form a strong bond and discover they have more in common than they ever imagined.



MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 7PM

These programs are supported by the Colman Family Philanthropic Fund

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 Escargots "Pastis" served in puff pastry 10
 Charcuterie Maison - House paté - Rillettes - Salad and condiments 9.5
 Baby octopus "Provencale" - Tomatoes and Pernod 11
 Oysters du Jour Mkt.

SOUP AND SALADS

- Soup du Jour Mkt.
 House salad - Lettuce, beets, tomatoes 7
 Warm crispy goat cheese salad - Port wine dressing 10
 Wild mushroom and Morbier tart - Petite salad 10
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 Grilled Caesar with P.E.I mussels - Capser Caesar dressing 11



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 *Calves liver - Sautéed spinach - Sherry vinegar sauce 14/21
 *Rabbit stew "Dijon" style - Fresh pasta 14/23
 *Chicken Grand Mère - Bacon - Petit pois - Onions 17/22
 Grilled steak frites - Salad - Garlic and herb butter 19
 *Fettuccine - Seasonal mushrooms - Asparagus and truffle sauce 13/19

SIDES : Ratatouille - Frites - Haricots verts - Root purée - Asparagus 6.5



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DOCUMENTARIES & DIALOGUE

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

AMAZON OZ

DIRECTED BY STELIOS CHARALAMPOPOULOS
DOC., GREECE, 2008, 52 MIN.

Greek director Stelios Charalampopoulos has crafted an engaging and intimate portrait of the acclaimed Israeli iconoclast and internationally celebrated author Amos Oz (*A Tale of Love and Darkness*), nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize. Shot partly in Arad, Jerusalem, and Salonica, Greece, the film traces the author's personal background: from his adolescence on the kibbutz, where he met his wife, to his family tragedies, including his mother's suicide. This poignant piece allows the viewer to enter into the world of one of Israel's most fiercely eloquent proponents of co-existence and the Middle East peace process.



GUEST SPEAKER: DR. EMILIE S. PASSOW, *Director, Certificate Program in Medical Humanities, Department of English and Philosophy and the Judaic Studies Program, Drexel University College of Arts and Sciences*

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 7PM

This program is supported by Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen LLP



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DOCUMENTARY WEEKEND

GLASS: A PORTRAIT OF PHILIP IN TWELVE PARTS

DIRECTED BY SCOTT HICKS
DOC., USA, 2007, 115 MIN.

Directed by Scott Hicks (*Shine*), *Glass: A Portrait of Philip in Twelve Parts* follows the legendary composer Philip Glass for over a year of his life. His journey spans three continents and includes a wide range of musical performances: from the world premiere of his new opera in Germany to a performance with a didgeridoo (an indigenous Australian wind instrument) virtuoso in Australia.

Hicks makes full use of his unprecedented access to Glass' working process, family life, spiritual teachers and long time collaborators, including interviews with Errol Morris, Woody Allen, Martin Scorsese and painter Chuck Close. Yet the film proceeds with more honesty than reverence, and the result reveals the startling complexity of one of the most famous, controversial, and notoriously highbrow composers of our time.

GUEST SPEAKER: DAN FRIEDMAN, *Associate Editor of Zeek: A Jewish Journal of Thought and Culture*
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 8PM

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

HOLY LAND HARBALL

DIRECTED BY BRETT RAPKIN AND ERIK KESTEN
DOC., USA, 2008, 87 MIN.

"Baseball in Israel? Vy not!" Thus reads a campaign tee-shirt briefly glimpsed in *Holy Land Harball*, a playful documentary about one man's quest to bring America's most sacred pastime to the Holy Land. In 2006, Boston bakery owner Larry Baras best known for his invention of the "UnHoley Bagel" (which comes pre-stuffed with cream cheese), decides to recruit 120 ballplayers for the first Israeli Baseball League. Tryouts attract some interesting characters, but the real challenge arises on the skeptical home front. Brett Rapkin and Erik Kesten direct this entertaining documentary about the difficulties of exporting a sporting tradition.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2PM



DOCUMENTARY WEEKEND, CONT.

REFUSENIK

DIRECTED BY LAURA BIALIS

DOC., USA, 2007, 120 MIN., IN ENGLISH, HEBREW AND RUSSIAN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In what began as a small grassroots effort, the thirty-year movement to free Soviet Jews is now regarded as one of the most successful international human rights campaigns of all time. By 1992, over one and a half million Jews had fled the Soviet Union and were able to live as free people because of the efforts of many resilient and dedicated individuals. *Refusenik*, the first retrospective documentary to chronicle the Soviet Jewry movement in its entirety, is comprised of over 100 interviews with activists, émigrés, and even former Secretary of State George Shultz and former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev. Director Laura Bialis provides a remarkably comprehensive history of the movement, illustrating just how individuals can utilize the power inherent in a tolerant democracy to change the world.



GUEST PANEL: CONSTANCE SMUKLER, *Leader in Soviet Jewry Movement*; BENJAMIN NATHANS, *Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania and author of "Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia"*; and MARINA AND LEV FURMAN, *former Refuseniks*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 7PM

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DOCUMENTARIES & DIALOGUE

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

OUTSIDE THE BOX

DIRECTED BY LACEY SCHWARTZ
DOC. TRAILER, USA, 2009, 6.5 MIN.

Growing up in a white, middle-class Jewish family in upstate New York, Lacey Schwartz thought she knew who she was, but at eighteen, she learns that her biological father is an African American man she has never met.

GUEST SPEAKER: LACEY SCHWARTZ, *Filmmaker*



PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

BLACK OVER WHITE

DIRECTED BY TOMER HEYMANN
DOC., ISRAEL, 2007, 54 MIN., IN AMHARIC, ENGLISH AND HEBREW, WITH ENGLISH
SUBTITLES

Raising questions about cultural identity and racism, *Black Over White* is not your average concert film, but a mesmerizing journey to the Ethiopia of Israeli pop/world-beat band, *The Idan Raichel Project*. Journeying back to the homeland of two of its lead singers, Cabra Casay and Avi Vograss Vesa, director Tomer Heymann seeks to rekindle the musicians' deep-rooted connection to their native land.

GUEST SPEAKER: LEWIS R. GORDON, *Laura H. Carnell Professor of Philosophy, Religion, and Jewish Studies at Temple University and Director of the Center for Afro-Jewish Studies.*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 7PM



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AMERICAN WEEKEND

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

ARRANGED

DIRECTED BY DIANE CRESPO, STEFAN C. SCHAEFER; WITH ZOE LISTER-JONES AND FRANCIS BENHAMOU
USA, 2007, 89 MIN.

In *Arranged*, two independent-minded, first-year teachers in a Brooklyn public school, one an Orthodox Jew and one a traditional Muslim, learn they have much more in common than just their mutual desire to teach their students a lesson about religious tolerance. Among their similarities, the young women have both chosen to abide by their religious customs of arranged marriages. Developing a kinship that transcends their insular communities and religions that seem so at odds in the broader world, the two women reveal a rare equanimity, a feeling greatly enhanced by the impressive natural performances of Lister-Jones and Benhamou.



GUEST SPEAKER: ALANA NEWHOUSE, *Editor-in-Chief, Nextbook.org*
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 8PM

PRAYING WITH LIOR

DIRECTED BY ILANA TRATCHMAN
DOC., USA, 2007, 87 MIN.

Brilliantly directed by Ilana Tratchman, *Praying with Lior* brings to light the riveting story of a young boy with Down syndrome who is eagerly getting ready for his bar mitzvah. Philadelphian Lior Liebling, inspired by the teachings of his deceased rabbi mother – who taught him the beauty of embracing one's faith through prayer – has a spirit so pure and unwavering, it is impossible to watch this film and not feel hopeful and inspired.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2PM



AMERICAN WEEKEND, CONT.

LOVE COMES LATELY

DIRECTED BY JAN SCHÜTTE; WITH OTTO TAUSIG, RHEA PERLMAN, BARBARA HERSHEY, TOVAH FELDSHUH, OLIVIA THIRLBY
GERMANY, AUSTRIA, USA, 2007, 86 MIN.

Based on three short stories by Nobel laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer, *Love Comes Lately* follows Austrian émigré, Max Kohn (Otto Tausig), who is in his eighties and living "in a state of permanent confusion." Despite his prostate problems, he continues to write short stories and travel the lecture circuit while making his longtime girlfriend, Reisele (Rhea Perlman), jealous of his "virtual harem of female admirers." Notable performances in the film include Barbara Hershey as Kohn's former student, Tovah Feldshuh as a needy widow, and Elizabeth Peña as a peculiar Cuban housekeeper.



MONDAY, MARCH 2, 7PM

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DOCUMENTARIES & DIALOGUE

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

JERUSALEM IS PROUD TO PRESENT

DIRECTED BY NITZAN GILADY

DOC., ISRAEL, 2007, 82 MIN., IN ENGLISH AND HEBREW, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In the summer of 2006, Jerusalem's Jewish, Muslim, and Christian religious leaders came together in a rare moment of agreement, promising to wage an uncompromising battle against an event that they said would "defile the holy city." The event in question was World Pride, a gathering which Jerusalem was planning to host for the first time in history, culminating in a gay pride parade. *Jerusalem is Proud to Present* gives voice to both sides of the conflict and reveals the difficulties faced by Jerusalem's LGBT community in their struggle for acceptance and respect.



GUEST SPEAKERS: MALCOLM LAZIN, *Founder and Executive Director, Equality Forum* and MARK SEGAL, *Publisher, Philadelphia Gay News*

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

A TRIP TO PRAGUE

DIRECTED BY NEIL IRA NEEDLEMAN; ILLUSTRATIONS BY HERB ROGOFF

USA, 2006, 4.5 MIN.

In this short animated film, the Jewish instinct to play matchmaker comes in full force when a couple comes across a nice Jewish boy whom they want to set up with their daughter. *A Trip to Prague* is a witty, whimsical, and engaging story told with sketchbook images made during a bachelor's vacation trip to Prague.



MONDAY, MARCH 16, 7PM

This program is supported by the Doris S. Casper Foundation

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IN A DREAM

DIRECTED BY JEREMIAH ZAGAR

DOC., USA, 2008, 73 MIN.

Winner of the jury prize for "Best First Film" at the Philadelphia Film Festival, *In a Dream* chronicles the work and life of artist Isaiah Zagar, who has spent the last four decades covering more than 50,000 square feet of Philadelphia with stunning mosaic murals. Directed by his son, Jeremiah Zagar, the film presents an unsparingly personal account of Zagar's tumultuous past as revealed by a father to his son. Yet in the course of filming the documentary, one of Zagar's revelations threatens to destroy his marriage. The film follows the Zagars as the past and the present collide, unfolding a difficult, new chapter in their family life.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 8PM



PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

ANNE AND THE REVEREND (ANNE ET LE RÉVÉREND)

DIRECTED BY FRANÇOIS UZAN

DOC., FRANCE, 2008, 49 MIN., IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Anne and the Reverend tells the story of Makoto Otsuka, a minister from Hiroshima, who upon meeting Anne Frank's father 30 years ago, resolved to dedicate his life to building a Holocaust museum for Japanese children. Through first-time director Francois Uzan's thoughtful portrayal of this inspired and passionate man, we gain new insight into Japan, as it searches for its own memory.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2PM



THE KIDDUSH MAN

DIRECTED BY YITZ BRILLIANT

USA, 2008, 10 MIN., IN HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In this sweet coming-of-age story, 10-year-old Yoni tries to escape Shabbat services every week in order to sneak into Kiddush before everyone else; however, he never makes it past old curmudgeonly Mr. Katz – "The Kiddush Man" – who always stops him in his tracks. But one Shabbat, Mr. Katz is nowhere to be found.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2PM

NEW FILMMAKERS WEEKEND

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

888-GO-KOSHER

DIRECTED BY LAUREN SHWEDER BIEL USA, 2007, 10.5 MIN.

Need your kitchen koshered? Rabbi Sholtiel Lebovic is your man! *888-GO-KOSHER* follows a day in the life of New York's only rapid-response kitchen koshering service. Operating out of his office in Brooklyn, Rabbi Lebovic helps those in need by answering calls and snapping into action with his full-service team to kosher kitchens across the New York area. *888-GO-KOSHER* offers a light-hearted portrait of this unique service and demonstrates the relationship of kosher laws to Jewish identity.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2PM

MY FATHER MY LORD

DIRECTED BY DAVID VOLACH; WITH ASSI DAYAN, SHARON HACOHEN BAR, ILAN GRIFF ISRAEL, 2007, 73 MIN., IN HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Named best narrative feature at last year's Tribeca Film Festival, *My Father My Lord* traces the loving, yet severe family life of Orthodox Rabbi Abraham; his wife, Esther; and their young son, Menachem. This beautifully shot film is loosely based on the biblical tale of Abraham and Isaac, in which a father agrees to sacrifice his son to God, but is given a last-minute reprieve. However, in this story, there is no reprieve. Filmmaker David Volach, who grew up in a Hasidic community, delivers his implicit critique with compassion and understanding. Stephen Holden of *The New York Times* writes: "For all its criticism of blindly exercised patriarchal authority, the movie is heartbreakingly tender."

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 7PM



New Filmmakers Weekend is proudly supported by the Independence Foundation, InLiquid, the Phyllis Sherin Shapiro Fund and the National Museum of American Jewish History.



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DOCUMENTARIES & DIALOGUE

AT HOME IN UTOPIA

DIRECTED BY MICHAL GOLDMAN

DOC., USA, 2008, 57 MIN., IN ENGLISH AND YIDDISH

A home of one's own: that's the American dream. But what happens when the dreamers are immigrants, factory workers, and Communists? Transcending the barriers of race, nation, language, and convention, *At Home In Utopia*, an epic tale of struggle for equality and justice across two generations, tracks the rise and fall of a community of Jewish garment workers who managed to catapult themselves out of urban slums and ghettos by pooling their resources and building four cooperatively owned apartment complexes in the Bronx.



GUEST SPEAKERS: FILMMAKERS MICHAL GOLDMAN AND ELLEN BRODSKY

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 7PM

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CLOSING WEEKEND

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

EMOTIONAL ARITHMETIC

DIRECTED BY PAOLO BARZMAN; WITH SUSAN SARANDON, GABRIEL BYRNE, CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER, MAX VON SYDOW, ROY DUPUIS
CANADA, 2007, 99 MIN.

Based on the novel by Matt Cohen, *Emotional Arithmetic* follows three friends' long-awaited reunion after 40 painful years of coping with the aftermath of World War II. During the Nazi occupation, three strangers form a lifelong bond while being held at Drancy, a French detention camp. Melanie and Christopher, two young children both separated from their families, are taken under the wing of a kind, gentle-spirited man named Jakob. Now an elderly poet, Jakob (Max von Sydow) has just been released from a Russian psychiatric hospital and visits Melanie (Susan Sarandon) for the first time since Drancy. Melanie, who continues to battle a lifelong bout with depression and anxiety, currently lives with her son (Roy Dupuis) and well-meaning husband (Christopher Plummer) on a farm in Quebec. Much to Melanie's surprise, Jakob has brought along Christopher (Gabriel Byrne), who has never relinquished his love for Melanie.



GUEST SPEAKER: DR. DANIEL GOTTLIEB, *Psychologist and Family Therapist, Host of NPR's Voices in the Family, Lecturer and Author*

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 8PM • SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2PM

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

MAX MINSKY AND ME

DIRECTED BY ANNA JUSTICE; WITH EMIL REINKE AND ZOE MOORE
GERMANY, 2007, 94 MIN., IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Max Minsky and Me, based on the award-winning book by screenwriter Holly-Jane Rahlen, centers on Nelly Sue Edelmeister, a skinny 13-year-old living in Berlin. Like most teenagers, Nelly has a lot to contend with. The marriage between her American Jewish mother and German Christian father is unraveling, she has a fast-approaching bat mitzvah, and the popular girls at school have no respect for her interest in science. When a school basketball championship offers her a chance to meet fellow astronomy fan and heartthrob Edouard, Prince of Luxembourg, Nelly decides to try out for the team. There's only one flaw in her plan: Nelly can't play basketball. That's where popular and athletic Max Minsky comes in, and together, the two form an unlikely alliance.



SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 7PM

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