

JEWISHFILM.2009 The National Center for Jewish Film's 12th Annual Film Festival

March 25 – April 5, 2009

Wasserman Cinematheque, Brandeis University & The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston

Information & Tickets: WWW.JEWISHFILM.ORG or 781.736.8600



JEWISHFILM.2009 PROGRAM CALENDAR

Wed	March	25	7:00 pm	@ Wasserman Cinematheque, Brandeis Univ.	WAITING FOR ARMAGEDDON
Thu	March	26	7:00 pm	@ Wasserman Cinematheque, Brandeis Univ.	LADY KUL EL-ARAB
Sat	March	28	5:30 pm	@ Wasserman Cinematheque, Brandeis Univ.	LOST ISLANDS
Sat	March	28	8:30 pm	@ Wasserman Cinematheque, Brandeis Univ.	LOST ISLANDS
Sun	March	29	1:00 pm	@ Wasserman Cinematheque, Brandeis Univ.	GERDA'S SILENCE
Sun	March	29	4:00 pm	@ Wasserman Cinematheque, Brandeis Univ.	WILL EISNER: PORTRAIT OF A SEQUENTIAL ARTIST
Sun	March	29	7:00 pm	@ Wasserman Cinematheque, Brandeis Univ.	FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS
Tue	March	31	7:00 pm	@ Wasserman Cinematheque, Brandeis Univ.	FORGOTTEN TRANSPORTS: TO ESTONIA
Thu	April	2	7:00 pm	@ The Institute of Contemporary Art / Boston	THE JESTER
Sat	April	4	7:00 pm	@ The Institute of Contemporary Art / Boston	THE SEVEN DAYS
Sun	April	5	1:00 pm	@ Wasserman Cinematheque, Brandeis Univ.	GREEN DUMPSTER MYSTERY/TEL AVIV @100
Sun	April	5	3:45 pm	@ Wasserman Cinematheque, Brandeis Univ.	THE SEVEN DAYS
Sun	April	5	7:00 pm	@ Wasserman Cinematheque, Brandeis Univ.	RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

WED | MARCH 25 | 7:00 pm

@ Brandeis University



WAITING FOR ARMAGEDDON

USA | 2008 | 74 min | DigiBeta | English

Directors: Franco Sacchi, Kate Davis & David Heilbroner

★ **New England Premiere** ★

Special Guests: **Director Franco Sacchi; Producers Hermine Muskat & Roberta Dougan**

Introduction: **Professor Jonathan Sarna, Brandeis University**

Fifty million Evangelicals believe that the apocalypse is foretold in Biblical prophecy. This startling documentary explores the growing clout of Christian Evangelicals, their impact on American foreign policy in the Middle East and the central role of Israel and Israeli Jews in their theology and public policy. **"When I turn on the television and I see what's happening either in Iraq or Israel, I don't look at what's happening with the hope that it will work out because I see that there are certain things that have to happen for the world to be ready for the return of Christ."** - Gary Derickson, Professor of Biblical Studies, Corban College

THU | MARCH 26 | 7:00 pm

@ Brandeis University



LADY KUL EL ARAB

Israel | 2008 | 56 min | Beta | Arabic & Hebrew w/ English subtitles

Director: Ibtisam Mara'ana

★ **Boston Premiere** ★

Special Guest: **Director Ibtisam Mara'ana**

Du'ah Fares, a 17-year old from a Druze village in the Galilee, forfeits her place as a finalist in the Lady Kul el-Arab beauty pageant to compete on a bigger stage, the Miss Israel contest. When the Druze elders learn of her participation, the backlash against Du'ah and her family is swift and dangerous. Arab Israeli filmmaker Ibtisam Mara'ana won the Best Director award at the New Delhi (India) Int'l Women's Film Festival. **Winner, Special Jury Award, Int'l Documentary FF Amsterdam**

SAT | MARCH 28 | 5:30 pm

@ Brandeis University



LOST ISLANDS / Iyim Avudim

Israel | 2008 | 103 min | 35mm | Hebrew w/ English subtitles
Director: Reshef Levy

★ **New England Premiere** ★

Special Guest: **Lawrence Lowenthal**

Supplanting *Noodle* as Israel's top-grossing film of 2008, this endearing, funny drama set in the early 1980s centers around the large, slightly-loopy Levi family. TV re-runs and 80's pop hits give way to more serious concerns when twin brothers Erez and Ofer fall for the same girl and war and family troubles intervene, forcing them to put their dreams on hold. **Winner of four Israeli Ophir Academy Awards, including Best Actor & Best Supporting Actor**

SAT | MARCH 28 | 8:30 pm

@ Brandeis University

LOST ISLANDS / Iyim Avudim

Special Guest: **Rony Yedidia, Deputy Consul General
of Israel to New England**

SUN | MARCH 29 | 1:00 pm

@ Brandeis University



GERDA'S SILENCE / Gerda's Schweigen

Germany | 2008 | 95 min | DigiBeta | German w/ English subtitles
Director: Britta Wauer

★ **North American Premiere** ★

Special Guest: **Knut Elstermann, German radio & television journalist**
Moderator: **Detlef Gericke-Schönhausen, Director, Goethe-Institut Boston**

It took Gerda 60 years to share her most intimate, guarded secret. Her confidant is not her American-born son, however, but Knut Elstermann, the grandson of her childhood friend in Berlin. Wrapped inside this thoughtful portrait of a tenacious woman who survived the most brutal horrors in Auschwitz, lies the story of her son, who like many children of survivors, suffers from the deafening silence. This is the narrative, too, of the children of post-war Germany—and more recently East Germany—and the role they play in telling the story of the Holocaust. **Based on the book *Gerda Schweigen* by Elstermann.**

SUN | MARCH 29 | 4:00 pm

@ Brandeis University



Will Eisner, *The Spirit* & the
Immigrants, 1999-2000

WILL EISNER: PORTRAIT OF A SEQUENTIAL ARTIST

USA | 2007 | 98 min | DigiBeta | English
Director/Producer: Andrew D. Cooke; Writer/Producer: Jon B. Cooke

★ **Boston Premiere** ★

Special Guests: **Filmmakers Andrew Cooke & Jon Cooke**
Moderator: **Professor Thomas Doherty, Brandeis University**

Godfather of the comic book and graphic novel, Will Eisner (1917-2005) was a rigorous innovator whose reinvention of visual storytelling matured comics into a rich combination of art & literature. Eisner's *The Spirit* (adapted for the screen in 2008), *Contract with God* and countless other graphic works were towering influences on artists Jules Feiffer, Jack Kirby, Frank Miller, Harvey Kurtzman and Stan Lee all of whom are interviewed in the film, along with novelists Kurt Vonnegut and Michael Chabon, whose book *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* was based in part on Eisner's life. **Art Spiegelman (*Maus*) narrates.**

SUN | MARCH 29 | 7:00 pm

@ Brandeis University



FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS / Comme Ton Père

Israel/France | 2007 | 95 min | 35mm | French & Hebrew w/ English subtitles

Director: Marco Carmel

★ **New England Premiere** ★

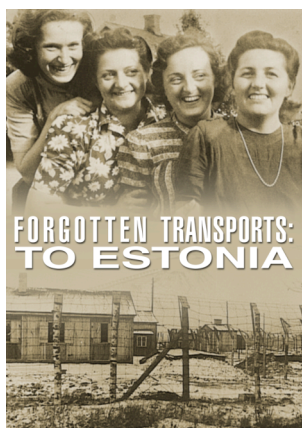
Special Guest: **Professor Edward Kaplan, Brandeis University**

In this vivid, tender drama set in the early 1970s, the Maimons settle in Paris seeking adventure and fortune. Felix, Mireille and their two sons - a rambunctious but tight knit Tunisian-Israeli young family - rely on each other, especially when Felix's minor crimes escalate to bank robbery after he meets Serge, a local (Sephardic) gangster.

Nominated for five Israeli Ophir Academy Awards, including Best Film, Director, Screenplay & Actress (Yael Abecassis, also in *Shiva*).

TUE | MARCH 31 | 7:00 pm

@ Brandeis University



FORGOTTEN TRANSPORTS: TO ESTONIA / Zapomenuté

Transporty: Do Estonska

Czech Republic | 2008 | 85 min | Beta | Czech, English & German w/ English Subtitles

Director/Producer/Writer: Lukas Pribyl

★ **New England Premiere** ★

Special Guest: **Director Lukas Pribyl (Brandeis '96)**

Of the tens of thousands of Czech Jews deported during the Holocaust most were sent to virtually unknown camps and ghettos. Of those, fewer than 300 survived. (Czech deportees to Auschwitz survived at 10 times this rate.) *To Estonia* traces the 3-year odyssey of several dozen young women who arrived in Estonia in 1942 aboard a transport of 1000 Czech Jews. Amazingly, the women quickly formed a mutual support network, surviving together through a willful combination of youthful naiveté, denial, humor, optimism and camaraderie.

THU | APRIL 2 | 7:00 pm

@ The Institute of Contemporary
Art/Boston



THE JESTER / Der Purimspiler

Poland | 1937 | 90 min | 35mm | Yiddish w/ NEW English subtitles

Directors: Joseph Green & Jan Nowina-Przybylski

Special Event

**Go Behind the Scenes of *The Jester's* Film Restoration & Music
with Sharon Pucker Rivo & Hankus Netsky**

**New 35mm Film Restoration by The National Center for Jewish Film
Includes Preservation of Rare Color Toning**

From the directors of *Yiddle with His Fiddle*, *The Jester* stars a lonely wanderer (Warsaw Yiddish Art Theater founder Zygmunt Turkow), a circus performer and Esther the shoemaker's daughter (married 2nd Ave Yiddish theater stars Hymie Jacobson & Miriam Kressyn). Filmed on location in Poland, the film's vaudeville scenes offer a glimpse of Warsaw's then-thriving Yiddish cabarets. **New England Premiere following sold out screenings at the Palm Springs International Film Festival & at Lincoln Center, New York.**

SAT | APRIL 4 | 7:00 pm

@ The Institute of Contemporary
Art/Boston



Moshe Ivgy. Following the sudden death of their brother, the large, Sephardic Ohayon family gathers at the deceased's house for the traditional seven days of mourning. Living and grieving together, rivalries and resentments test family unity, but never love. It's 1991 and the Gulf War's threat of missile attacks heightens tensions and moments of black humor. **Official Selection Cannes Film Festival • Winner Best Film & Actress, Jerusalem Int'l Film Festival • Winner 2 Israeli Academy Awards**

THE SEVEN DAYS / Shiva / Les Sept Jours

Israel/France | 2008 | 115 min | 35mm | Hebrew & French w/ English subtitles
Directors: Ronit Elkabetz & Shlomi Elkabetz

★ **Boston Premiere** ★

Special Guest: **Nadav Tamir, Consul General of Israel to New England**

Written, directed & starring Ronit Elkabetz (*The Bands's Visit, Late Marriage*) and her brother Shlomi, *Seven Days* boasts an ensemble of Israel's best actors, including

SUN | APRIL 5 | 1:00 pm

@ Brandeis University



Like Daniel Mendelsohn's bestseller *The Lost* and David Ofek's film *No. 17*, this tightly-paced tour de force vividly evokes the now-extinguished lives of an anonymous—but typical—Israeli family.

GREEN DUMPSTER MYSTERY / Hataaluma Bamehola Hayeruka

Israel | 2008 | 50 min | Beta | English narration & Hebrew w/ English subtitles
Director/Producer/Writer: Tal Yoffe

★ **Special Sneak Preview** ★

Traveling on his scooter through Tel Aviv, filmmaker Tal Yoffe finds a discarded box of old photographs in a green dumpster. This docu-detective film, slowly unwinds a family history, beginning in Lodz, Poland, and traveling through the Siberian Gulag, a Samarkand sugar plant, a Haha'apala ship and the battlefields of the Sinai Peninsula.

SCREENING WITH

TEL AVIV

Israel | 2009 | 50 min | Beta | Hebrew w/ English subtitles
Director: Gabriel Bibliowicz; Producers: Modi Bar-On & Anat Zeltser

★ **North American Premiere** ★

A lively documentary celebrating the 100th anniversary of Tel Aviv. A treasure trove of archival photos and film intercut with those of contemporary Tel Aviv.

SUN | APRIL 5 | 3:45 pm

@ Brandeis University

THE SEVEN DAYS / Shiva / Les Sept Jours

SUN | APRIL 5 | 7:00 pm

@ Brandeis University



RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

USA | 2008 | 90 min | Beta | English
Director/Producer: Judd Ehrlich

★ **Boston Premiere** ★

Special Guest: **Director Judd Ehrlich**

An affectionate energetic salute to an unlikely American icon: Fred Lebow, the mastermind behind the New York City Marathon. Raised in an Orthodox Jewish family in Transylvania, Fischl Leibowitz survived the Holocaust and immigrated to New York,

a city he later united by transforming a rag-tag runners group into a world class event. Set amidst the urban funk of the 1970s & 80s, the film combines archival footage and interviews with politicians, journalists and some of running's greats, including Bill Rodgers, Frank Shorter, Grete Waitz, Alberto Salazar, Katherine Switzer and Ted Corbitt in a remarkable story of how one eccentric showman ran for his life—and inspired millions to do the same.