



The National
Center for
Jewish Film

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JEWISHFILM.2010
The National Center for Jewish Film's 13th Annual Film Festival
April 7 - April 18, 2010

WALTHAM, MA (March 12, 2010) – The National Center for Jewish Film and Brandeis University in cooperation with The Consulate General of Israel to New England will present JEWISHFILM.2010 The National Center for Jewish Film's 13th Annual Film Festival from April 7 - April 18, 2010. All films will be screened at the Wasserman Cinematheque at Brandeis University in Waltham, MA, with additional screenings at The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Jewishfilm.2010 will present thirteen films—six fiction feature films and seven documentaries, from six countries. All but one are New England Premiere screenings.

Festival highlights include three exceptional, critically-acclaimed fiction feature films, each screening at Brandeis with a second screening at either The Institute of Contemporary Art or the Museum of Fine Arts:

Writer-director-star Karin Albou (*Le Petite Jerusalem*, Cannes winner) mines her family's own North African Sephardic roots in *THE WEDDING SONG*, a taboo-breaking and visually stunning film set in 1942 Nazi-occupied Tunisia that maps the intersection of Jewish and Arab cultures and the power and fragility of female sexuality.

The debut features *SEVEN MINUTES IN HEAVEN* (Omri Givon, writer-director) and *EYES WIDE OPEN* (Haim Tabakman, director) showcase two of Israel's best up-and-coming filmmakers. *SEVEN MINUTES IN HEAVEN* (Best Film, Haifa International Film Festival) is a brilliantly-crafted psychological thriller about a young Jerusalem woman struggling to reclaim her memory after a bus bombing left her clinically dead for seven minutes. Givon wrote the film after visiting a scrap metal graveyard for bombed-out buses destroyed in terrorist attacks.

EYES WIDE OPEN's poignant story of an ultra-Orthodox butcher whose affair with the young man he hired as an apprentice, has been admiringly compared to *Brokeback Mountain*. A *New York Times* Critics Pick and winner of the Best First Film at the 2010 Palm Springs International Film Festival, this soulful film stars three of Israel's most popular young actors and is fast becoming a cultural and artistic touchstone.

In commemoration of Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Jewishfilm.2010 will present *EINSATZGRUPPEN*, Michaël Prazan's definitive, new documentary about the Nazi mobile killing units who murdered 1.5 million people. This important film features a great deal of never-seen-before archival film and photos taken by the perpetrators.

As it does each year, NCJF will premiere the Center's most recent film restoration. This year's film—the American-made 1935 Yiddish feature *BAR MITZVAH* starring superstar Boris Thomashefsky in his only film role—is a perfectly timed celebration of Jewishfilm's 13th (Bar Mitzvah year) anniversary. NCJF is the largest archive of Jewish film outside of Israel and *BAR MITZVAH* is its 38th Yiddish feature film restoration. The film comes to Boston following two sold out screenings at Lincoln Center in New York. NCJF Executive Director Sharon Pucker Rivo and musician Hankus Netsky will host a Q&A.

Jewishfilm.2010's opening night film BERLIN '36, a drama inspired by the suspenseful, true story of Jewish high jumper Gretel Bergmann, a 1936 Olympics gold medal contender, comes on the heels of the Vancouver Olympic Games. Special guest Susan Bachrach, curator of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum's exhibition "Nazi Olympics, Berlin 1936," will discuss the real story of the Nazi games and the relationship between the Olympics, nationalism, politics and race.

Jewishfilm.2010's documentaries offer a diverse range of fascinating portraits, including rare profiles of four ultra-Orthodox community organizers (in GEVALD and THE RABBI'S DAUGHTER AND THE MIDWIFE); a revealing look at Lena Küchlar, a young teacher whose progressive psychiatric methods saved dozens of child Holocaust survivors (in MY 100 CHILDREN); and a contemporary look at THE PERETZNIKS, alumni of the Peretz School, an oasis of sorts for Jewish children in Post-War Communist Poland. Director Slawomir Grünberg and Boston "Peretznik" Lilka Elbaum will be special guests.

In Petra Seeger's film IN SEARCH OF MEMORY: THE NEUROSCIENTIST ERIC KANDEL, Dr. Kandel, winner of the Nobel Prize for his research into the brain's role in preserving memory, leaps off the screen with an exuberant curiosity and lust for life. The film will be screened as a special Sneak Preview, in advance of a Boston theatrical run.

Visiting filmmaker Scott Goldstein will discuss the subject of his multi-award-winning film WHERE I STAND: THE HANK GREENSPUN STORY. Greenspun, a real life Zelig, whose colorful life as the "give 'em hell" owner of the *Las Vegas Sun* would be unbelievable if fiction. A Vegas titan, Greenspun ran guns for the Haganah, worked with Bugsy Seigel and Howard Hughes and was targeted by Joseph McCarthy and the Watergate burglars.

For complete schedule & tickets: www.jewishfilm.org or 781.736.8600. Photos & screeners available.

SEE ATTACHED PROGRAM



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APRIL 7 – APRIL 18, 2010

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WWW.JEWISHFILM.ORG | 781.736.8600

BAR MITZVAH

Sunday | April 18 | 11:15 am @ Brandeis University

New Restoration & Subtitles by NCJF

USA | 1935 | 90 min | DigiBeta | Yiddish w/ new English subtitles | Director: Henry Lynn

Celebrate JEWISHFILM's "Bar Mitzvah year" Anniversary with the New England Premiere of NCJF's New Restoration

Special Guests: Sharon Pucker Rivo & Musician Hankus Netsky

Starring the legendary Boris Thomashefsky in his only film performance! USA Premiere sold out twice at Lincoln Center. Believing his wife lost at sea, Israel remarries a scheming gold-digger. Shock, tears and laughs abound when his beloved wife returns on the eve of her son's bar mitzvah after a ten-year absence.

"This schmaltzy...[musical] melodrama...pays tribute to religious and theatrical traditions while surprisingly bursting their bonds in moments of modernist cinematic inspiration. As the plot lurches and twists...lightning bolts of cinematic revelation suggest the pliable, accessible modernism of the cinema in even the most constraining of circumstances." – New Yorker (Dec. 2009)

BERLIN '36

Wednesday | April 7 | 7:00 pm @ Brandeis University

OPENING NIGHT FILM

Germany/UK | 2009 | 97 min | 35mm | German w/ English subtitles | Director: Kaspar Heidelbach

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

Special Guest: Susan Bachrach, Curator, "Nazi Olympics, Berlin 1936," US Holocaust Memorial Museum
Introduction: Detlef Gericke-Schoenhagen, Director, Goethe-Institut Boston

A feature film inspired by the true story of Jewish high jumper Gretel Bergmann, a gold medal contender at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. Deflecting threats of international boycott due to Germany's treatment of Jewish athletes, the Nazis bring Bergmann back from exile and force her to train. To keep her off the medal podium, the Reich conspires to replace the Jewish jumper with "Marie Ketteler," an unknown athlete with a deep secret. Let the games begin!

CAMERA OBSCURA / La Cámara Oscura

Sunday | April 18 | 4:30 pm @ Brandeis University

Argentina | 2008 | 86 min | DigiBeta | Spanish & Yiddish w/ English subtitles | Director: Maria Victoria Menis

Special Guest: Marjorie Agosin, Wellesley College

At the end of the 19th century, Gertrudis, a shy, introspective "ugly duckling" in a colony of immigrant Argentinean Jews, grows into her role as a mother and wife of a charismatic Yidische Gaucho—until she meets a nomadic photographer whose uncompromising vision allows her to see herself for the first time. This lyrical, inventive feature film from award-winning Argentinean director María Victoria Menis weaves together live action, animation and still photography in a unique tribute to the power of art and imagination. **Film Festival Favorite & Nominee for Eight Argentinean Film Critics Awards.**

EINSATZGRUPPEN: THE DEATH BRIGADES / Les Commandos de la Mort

Sunday | April 11 | 12:00 pm @ Brandeis University

YOM HASHOAH EVENT

France | 2009 | 180 min | Beta | English narration, French, German w/ English subtitles | Director: Michaël Prazan

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE – SECOND USA SCREENING

In June 1941, Nazi mobile killing squads led by highly educated officers known as the Einsatzgruppen were dispatched throughout Eastern Europe. By the spring of 1943, the 3000 members of the Einsatzgruppen—aided by local collaborators in each country—had systematically murdered 1.5 million Jews, Roma, handicapped, partisans and Soviets. Prazan's definitive masterwork is one of the essential films documenting the Holocaust and features a powerful array of never-seen-before film and photographs, along with interviews with Holocaust survivors, perpetrators and historians.

Part I: Mass Graves (1941-42); Part II: Funeral Pyres (1942-45). One intermission.

EYES WIDE OPEN / Eynayim Pekuhot

Friday | April 16 | 7:00 pm @ The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston

Saturday | April 17 | 8:30 pm @ Brandeis University

Israel/France/Germany | 2009 | 91 min | 35mm | Hebrew w/ English Subtitles | Director: Haim Tabakman

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

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

In Haim Tabakman's breathtaking debut, Aaron (Zohar Strauss), a Haredi butcher with a wife (Tinkerbelle) and four children, is drawn to the sensitive young man he has taken under his wing as an apprentice (Ran Danker).

Starring three of Israel's most popular actors, this Cannes Film Festival selection, has won a host of awards, including Best First Film at the Palm Springs International Film Festival.

A New York Times Critics Pick:

"The quiet and confident feature explores the conflict between sexual desire and religious obligation. Set in an ultra-Orthodox neighborhood of Jerusalem, the film gives nearly equal weight to both sides in that struggle. Its scrupulous, humane sympathy gives this small, sorrowful film a glow of insight and a pulse of genuine, openhearted curiosity. It moves slowly and patiently through the ordeal of a single soul, illuminating in the process a cosmos of intense and hidden feeling."

GEVALD! / RABBI'S DAUGHTER (Two Documentaries)

Sunday | April 11 | 4:15 pm @ Brandeis University

Israel | 2009 | 50 min/each film | DigiBeta | Hebrew w/ English subtitles | Directors: Ron Ofer & Yohai Hakak
700,000 Haredim (ultra-Orthodox Jews) live in Israel. Often hostile to the "outside" world, they rarely participate in mainstream media. Here is a rare journey into Israel's Haredi community with portraits of four key figures.

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

Special Guest: Ilan Troen, Brandeis University

GEVALD! A riveting juxtaposition of two prominent ultra-Orthodox leaders in the run up to the 2006 elections: Shmuel Chaim Pappenheim, a radical anti-Zionist activist who organizes mass protests against the secular state, and the late Avraham Ravitz, a longtime Knesset member who worked within the system to advance his constituency's religious agenda.

THE RABBI'S DAUGHTER AND THE MIDWIFE Adina Bar-Shalom, daughter of Rabbi Ovadia Yossef, established the first university program for Haredi women. Midwife "Bambi" Chalkowski has delivered 30,000 babies, many into poor families with 10 or more children whom she aids, in part, through informal reproductive counseling.

IN SEARCH OF MEMORY: THE NEUROSCIENTIST ERIC KANDEL

CLOSING NIGHT FILM

Sunday | April 18 | 7:00 pm @ Brandeis University

USA/Germany | 2008 | 95 min | DigiBeta | English & German w/ English subtitles | Director: Petra Seeger

SNEAK PREVIEW

Eric Kandel, winner of the Nobel Prize for his research into the brain's role in preserving memory, leaps off the screen with an exuberant curiosity and lust for life. With humor and charm, Kandel, age 79, ties the events of his childhood—his family immigrated to the US from Vienna to escape Nazi persecution—and the influence of Judaism to his quest to understand the inner workings of memory, "the glue that binds our mental life together."

"A passionate exploration of the life and work of Eric Kandel, the brilliant and irrepressible neurobiologist. Like Eric, Seeger's film resonates in all directions, illuminating not only the trajectory of psychology and neuroscience in the last century, but the nature of art and science, history and remembrance, work and love, inspiration and achievement. It is an unforgettable journey." — Oliver Sacks

MY 100 CHILDREN / Me'ah Yeladim Sheli

Tuesday | April 13 | 4:30 pm @ Brandeis University

Israel | 2003 | 68 min | DigiBeta | English, Hebrew & Polish w/ English subtitles | Directors: Amalia Margolin & Oshra Schwartz

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

Special Guest: Joanna Michlic, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute

When Lena Küchlar discovered dozens of orphaned Jewish children in Krakow after WW II, she employed the progressive psychiatric methods of Janusz Korczak and slowly brought these damaged kids back to life. Antisemitic attacks in 1949 forced her to smuggle the children to France and later to Israel. Based on Küchlar's best-selling autobiography, the film includes moving interviews with her "children." **Winner-Best Documentary, Israeli Film Academy & Best Documentary, Jewish Experience, Jerusalem International Film Festival.**

THE PERETZNIKS / *Perecowicze*

Wednesday | April 14 | 4:45 pm @ Brandeis University

Poland/US | 2009 | 92 min | English, Polish & Hebrew w/ English subtitles | Director: Slawomir Grünberg

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

Special Guests: Filmmakers Slawomir Grünberg and Katka Reszke & “Peretznik” Lilka Elbaum

Alumni of the Jewish Peretz School recall their adolescence in Lodz before the 1968 antisemitic campaign scattered Polish Jewry. For “The Peretzniks,” children of holocaust survivors who remained in post-war Communist Poland, their school and classmates constituted an entire world. Today, Peretzniks from around the world (including architect Daniel Libeskind) discuss Poland in the 1950s and 60s and the complexity of Polish and Jewish identity.

SEVEN MINUTES IN HEAVEN / *Sheva Dakot Be Gan Eden*

Saturday | April 10 | 7:10 pm @ Museum of Fine Art, Boston

Wednesday | April 14 | 7:30 pm @ Brandeis University

Israel/France/Hungary | 2008 | 94 min | 35mm | Hebrew w/ English Subtitles | Director/Writer: Omri Givon

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

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

A brilliantly-crafted psychological thriller with deep emotional undercurrents, *Seven Minutes in Heaven* concerns a young Jerusalem woman struggling to reclaim her memory after a horrific bus bombing left her clinically dead for seven minutes. One year after the attack, Galia (Reymonde Amsellem) is ambivalent about the physical and psychological scars that remain. When a necklace arrives in an unmarked package and a handsome stranger enters her life, Galia begins to unlock the mystery. What follows is a maze of investigations, culminating in a startling revelation. **Winner-Best Film, Haifa international Film Festival.**

“Reymonde Amsellem gives an outstanding performance. What begins as a conventional love story takes a metaphysical turn.” – *New York Times*

THE WEDDING SONG / *Le Chant des Mariées*

Thursday | April 8 | 7:00 pm @ The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston

Sunday | April 11 | 7:15 pm @ Brandeis University

France | 2008 | 84 min | 35mm | French, Arabic, German w/ English Subtitles | Director/Writer: Karin Albou

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

A bold and beautiful drama set in 1942 Nazi-occupied Tunisia. Follow the fates of inseparable 16-year old best friends, Jewish Myriam and Muslim Nour, who find themselves on different sides of the Reich. Writer director Albou (*Le Petite Jerusalem*, Cannes winner), who also co-stars as Myriam’s mother, mines her family’s own North African Sephardic roots in this taboo-breaking and visually stunning film that maps the intersection of Jewish and Arab cultures and the power and fragility of female sexuality. **“Confirms Albou as a new and original voice.” – *Variety***

A New York Times Critics Pick:

“A seductively fluid and tactile drama...filmed with subtle eroticism and dreamy intimacy. Ms. Albou creates a marvelously fleshy, female world...But from henna-stained fingertips to a blood-spotted wedding sheet, the film’s images remind us that here, female flesh is always the property of men.”

WHERE I STAND: THE HANK GREENSPUN STORY

Sunday | April 18 | 1:45 pm @ Brandeis University

USA | 2008 | 98 min | DigiBeta | Director: Scott Goldstein

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

Special Guest: Director Scott Goldstein

Anthony Hopkins narrates the story of Hank Greenspun, a real life Zelig whose colorful life as the “give ’em hell” owner of the *Las Vegas Sun* would be unbelievable if fiction. A working class kid from New Haven, Greenspun was a NYC defense attorney and WWII GI before heading to Las Vegas where he started out as Bugsy Seigel’s PR man and ended up a Vegas titan, owner of casinos, real estate and a media empire. Greenspun ran guns for the Haganah and was a target of both Joseph McCarthy and the Watergate burglars. Behind the scenes, he pushed Howard Hughes to buy out the Vegas mob. Out front, he campaigned against segregation on the Strip, the IRS and nuclear waste dumping. **Winner-Best Film at the Los Angeles, Atlanta, San Diego & Denver Jewish Film Festivals.**