

# The National Center for Jewish Film's JEWISHFILM.2016

## 19th Annual Film Festival

May 4 - 22  
www.jewishfilm.org

### ARABIC MOVIE / סרט ערבית

Sun, May 8, 2:30 pm @ W. Newton Cinema **MASSACHUSETTS PREMIERE**  
Thu, May 19, 3:00 pm @ MFA Boston (Alfond)  
Q&A with Professor Ari Ofengenden (May 19)

Dirs: Eyal Sagui Bizawe & Sara Tsifroni | Israel | 2015 | 62m | Hebrew & Arabic w/ English subs

A fascinating look at one of the rituals of Israeli popular culture: The weekly Friday afternoon TV broadcast of the "Arabic movie." Back in the days when Israel had only one TV station, families of all backgrounds—Mizrahi, Ashkenazi, and Palestinians alike—would gather around the TV to watch Egyptian melodramas, comedies, and musicals. Full of marvelous film clips (roll the matinee idols and infectious pop music), this documentary explores the restorative role these movies played for many Jewish émigrés from Arab lands, and investigates how Israel's official TV station bypassed sealed borders to obtain these beloved movies.



SPONSORS: Israel Campus Roundtable; Consulate General of Israel to New England

### BABA JOON / באבא ג'ון

Sat, May 14, 7:00 pm @ MFA Boston (Remis) **MASSACHUSETTS PREMIERE**  
Sun, May 22, 7:00 pm @ W. Newton Cinema

Dir: Yuval Delshad | Israel | 2015 | 91m | Farsi & Hebrew w/ English subs

Israel's entry for the Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award (and the first Israeli movie filmed in Farsi) is a tender tale of generational divide and immigrant experience that will win your heart. Set in a Persian-immigrant moshav in the Negev in the 1980s, three generations of the stubborn Morgian family run a ramshackle turkey farm in an isolated desert community of Farsi speakers. Yitzhak (Navid Negahban, "Abu Nazir" on *Homeland*) plans for his son Moti to take over the family business, but Moti's dreams lie elsewhere, especially after the arrival of his more worldly uncle from America.



Winner, Israeli Academy Awards for Best Film, Best Cinematography, Best Art Director, Best Casting & Best Music.

SPONSORS: Israel Campus Roundtable; Consulate General of Israel to New England; Hadassah Northeast

### BREAKING HOME TIES

1922 Silent Film Gem

**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**  
New Digital Restoration by The National Center For Jewish Film

Thu, May 12, 7:30 pm @ MFA Boston (Remis)

Dirs: Frank Seltzer & George Rowlands | USA | 1922 | 78m | Silent

Live Music Accompaniment by Donald Sosin & Mimi Rabson

Q&A with NCJF directors Sharon Pucker Rivo & Lisa Rivo and musician Donald Sosin.

Thinking he has killed his friend Paul in a jealous rage, David Bergmann flees pre-revolutionary Russia for New York, where he becomes a successful lawyer and woos smart, independent Rose. When the Bergmann parents move to New York, immigrant life takes its toll. Will David marry Rose? Will the Bergmanns be reunited? And what about Paul, the friend David thought he killed back in Russia? Long thought lost, the world's only existing print of *Breaking Home Ties* was discovered, rescued, and restored by The National Center for Jewish Film. *Breaking Home Ties* comes to Boston from events in New York (Lincoln Center), Jerusalem, Washington, Cleveland, Toronto & Hong Kong.



SPONSOR: American Jewish Historical Society New England Archives

### BY SIDNEY LUMET

Sun, May 15, 1:30 pm @ W. Newton Cinema **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

Q&A with Professor Thomas Doherty

Dir: Nancy Buirski | USA | 2015 | 103m | English

The consummate storyteller Sidney Lumet reflects on his passion for making movies and shooting in New York City, his love for his actors, including Henry Fonda, Paul Newman, and Al Pacino, his childhood in the Yiddish theater, his tour as a WWII GI, and the impact of the Holocaust and McCarthy's Blacklist. The film luxuriates in clips from Lumet's groundbreaking masterworks, including *12 Angry Men*, *The Pawnbroker*, *Serpico*, *Dog Day Afternoon*, *Network* and *The Verdict*. This must see portrait of one of the cinema's finest and most humane filmmakers had its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival.



SPONSORS: Brandeis University Alumni Association; Brandeis National Committee; American Studies Program at Brandeis University

### CARVALHO'S JOURNEY

Thu, May 5, 7:30 pm @ MFA Boston (Remis) **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**  
Sun, May 22, 2:00 pm @ W. Newton Cinema

Q&A with Filmmaker Steve Rivo and Professor Jonathan Sarna (May 5)

Dir: Steve Rivo | USA | 2015 | 85m | English

A real-life 19th century American western adventure story about Solomon Nunes Carvalho, an observant Sephardic Jew born in 1815 in Charleston, South Carolina. In 1853, traveling with John Fremont's 5th Westward Expedition, Carvalho became one of the first photographers to document the sweeping vistas and treacherous terrain of the far American West. Living alongside mountain men, Native Americans and Mormons, Carvalho overcame enormous odds to produce beautiful art: daguerreotypes that became the lens through which the world experienced the West. "Staggering...breath-taking." *Wall Street Journal* "Great story...stunning visuals...a very rare treat." *Huffington Post* CO-PRESENTED BY: Brandeis University Alumni Association; Brandeis National Committee SPONSOR: Department of Near Eastern & Judaic Studies at Brandeis University



### DEMON

Fri, May 13, 7:00 pm @ MFA Boston (Alfond) **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**  
Tue, May 17, 7:00 pm @ Coolidge Corner Theatre

Q&A with Professor Antony Polonsky

Dir: Marcin Wrona | Poland/Israel | 2015 | 94m | Polish & Yiddish w/ English subs

In this chilling, modern interpretation of the Dybbuk legend, Piotr (Itay Tiran) discovers human bones buried in the backyard of the Polish country home of his future in-laws on the eve of his wedding. As the wedding celebration's bacchanalia spins out of control, director Marcin Wrona's brilliant story of possession becomes an unflinching, allegorical censure of contemporary Poland, where the absence of Jews and willful irresolution on matters of Polish antisemitism, gives rise to spirits. Winner, Tobiasz Szpancer Award for Best Film, Haifa Film Festival. Spotlight selection, Toronto Film Festival and MOMA's New Directors/New Films.

CO-PRESENTED BY: Sarnat Center for the Study of Anti-Jewishness at Brandeis University

SPONSOR: American Association for Polish Jewish Studies

### DIRTY WOLVES / Lobos Sucios

Thu, May 5, 5:00 pm @ MFA Boston (Remis) **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**  
Sun, May 15, 4:30 pm @ W. Newton Cinema

Welcome: Consul General of Spain in Boston Julio Núñez Montesinos (May 5)

Dir: Simón Casal de Miguel | Spain | 2015 | 105m | Spanish & German w/ English subs

Manuela (Goya Award-winning actress Marian Álvarez) and the poor citizens of her village in northwest Spain work in the mines processing wolfram (aka tungsten) for the Nazis who are harvesting the rare metal for the Third Reich's war machine. When the miners plan a revolt and her sister begins helping Jews cross into Portugal, Manuela must decide if she can remain neutral in a time of war. Spanish director Simón Casal de Miguel imbues his WWII thriller with the look of a Francisco de Zurbarán oil painting and notes of magical realism, infusing the Galician countryside with a mysticism as old as the forest's twisting yew trees. Inspired by actual events.

CO-PRESENTED BY: Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry at Brandeis University

SPONSOR: Facing History & Ourselves; Center for German & European Studies Brandeis

### DRAWING AGAINST OBLIVION / Zeichnem Gegen Das Vergessens

Thu, May 19, 5:30 pm @ MFA Boston (Alfond) **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

Dir: Bärbel Jacks | Germany/Austria | 2015 | 67m | German & English w/ English subs

Austrian artist Manfred Bockelmann was born in 1943, the son of privileged parents who joined the Nazi party. Deeply troubled by this history, Bockelmann set out to revive the memory of Jewish children who perished in the Shoah with monumental charcoal drawings born from small photo portraits of the victims. "What happened to the children who lay in the wrong cradle?" Bockelmann asks, "I want to get these children back out of the darkness." Winner Best Documentary, Best Cinematography & Best Music, New York Festivals.

CO-PRESENTED BY: Center for German & European Studies at Brandeis University

SPONSORS: Facing History & Ourselves; Goethe-Institut Boston

### IN SEARCH OF ISRAELI CUISINE

Mon, May 16, 6:00 pm @ JCC Newton

Q&A with Roger Sherman & Michael Solomonov

Dir: Roger Sherman | USA | 2015 | 97m | English

Israeli born chef Michael Solomonov visits fine restaurants and home kitchens, wineries and artisanal cooks throughout Israel, tasting his way through the country's various cultures. Note: Separate ticketing.

CO-PRESENTED BY: Jewish Arts Collaborative & Boston Jewish Film Festival



### THE KIND WORDS / המילים הטובות

Fri, May 6, 7:00 pm @ MFA Boston (Remis) **MASSACHUSETTS PREMIERE**  
Sun, May 15, 7:30 pm @ W. Newton Cinema

Dir: Shemi Zarhin | Israel/Canada | 2015 | 118m | Hebrew & French w/ English subs



Writer-director Shemi Zarhin (*World Is Funny* NCJF'13, *Aviva My Love*, *Noodle* NCJF'08) gives us another masterful depiction of the complex bonds of family in his most recent box office smash about three siblings who discover a shocking family secret. Chasing the unraveling threads of a family legacy that stretches back to their mother's native Algiers, hot tempered Dorona (Rotem Zisman-Cohen), her older Orthodox brother Netanel (Roy Assaf), and free spirited

brother Shai (Assaf Ben-Shimon) leave behind their father (Sasson Gabai, *The Band's Visit*) and take off on a funny, poignant journey to Paris. Nominated for 12 Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Film, Best Director, Best Script & Best Actor.

SPONSORS: Israel Campus Roundtable; Consulate General of Israel to New England; Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston

### LAMB

Sun, May 8, 7:00 pm @ W. Newton Cinema

Dir: Yared Zeleke | Ethiopia/France/Germany | 2015 | 94m | Amharic w/ English subs

Ephraim (Redat Amare) is sent by his father to live among distant relatives in the countryside after his mother's death in Yared Zeleke's luminous and touching feature. Ephraim uses his cooking skills to carve out a place among his cousins, but when his uncle decides that his beloved sheep must be sacrificed for the next religious feast, he will do anything to save the animal and return home. Ethiopia's entry for Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award, *Lamb* was the first ever Ethiopian film at the Cannes Film Festival. Winner, Jury Prize Denver Film Festival; Winner, Best Feature, Milan Film Festival. "Sheer Brilliance!" *The Guardian* "BEAUTIFUL!" *Variety*



### THE LAW / La Loi

Sun, May 8, 4:30 pm @ W. Newton Cinema **MASSACHUSETTS PREMIERE**  
Wed, May 18, 7:30 pm @ MFA Boston (Alfond)

Q&A with Professor Shula Reinharz & Dr. Lisa Fishbayn (May 18)

Dir: Christian Faure | France | 2015 | 90m | French w/ English subs

Simone Veil's intrepid fight to legalize abortion in France is brilliantly brought to life in this taut fact-based political drama. In 1974, French health minister Veil was charged with decriminalizing abortion and easing access to contraceptives. Facing strong opposition from politicians, an enraged public, and the Catholic Church, Veil, who survived Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, fought for women's rights amidst a swirl of antisemitic sentiment, sexism, and personal attacks. César Award-winning actress Emmanuelle Devos (*Coco Before Chanel*) delivers a smoldering performance.

CO-PRESENTED BY: Hadassah-Brandeis Institute

SPONSOR: Consulate General of France in Boston

### A LIFE FOR FOOTBALL / Landauer Der Präsident

Sun, May 15, 11:00 am @ Coolidge Corner **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

Dir: Hans Steinbichler | Germany | 2014 | 89m | German w/ English subs

Before WWII, Kurt Landauer (Josef Bierbichler) was a German hero: the Jewish president of the soccer club FC Bayern Munich. In the wake of his country's betrayal, Landauer sees rebuilding Munich's soccer league and stadium as a constructive path forward for post-war Germany. Note: Separate ticketing



CO-PRESENTED BY: Goethe-Institut Boston New Films From Germany Series

### THE PEOPLE VS. FRITZ BAUER / Der Staat Gegen Fritz Bauer

Wed, May 4, 7:00 pm @ MFA (Remis) **SNEAK PREVIEW & OPENING NIGHT**

Welcome: Consul General of Germany to New England Ralf Horlemann

Dir: Lars Kraume | Germany | 2015 | 105m | German, English & Yiddish w/ English subs

Burghart Klaußner (*The White Ribbon*, *Bridge of Spies*) and Ronald Zehrfeld (*Phoenix* NCJF'15) star in this riveting historical thriller chronicling the herculean efforts of German District Attorney Fritz Bauer to capture and bring to justice Nazi war criminal Adolph Eichmann. With death threats mounting and government intelligence services (in his own office!) employing noxious methods to shut him down, Bauer, a German-Jew, refuses to back down amid a post-war climate where Nazi perpetrators remain at large or newly ensconced in government or corporate jobs. Audience Award Winner, Locarno Film Festival. "A Masterpiece." *Der Tagesspiegel*

CO-PRESENTED BY: Goethe-Institut Boston; Center for German & European Studies at Brandeis

### RABIN, THE LAST DAY

Mon, May 9, 6:30 pm @ Brandeis University **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

Sat, May 14, 1:30 pm @ MFA Boston (Remis)

Q&A with Film Historian Richard Peña (May 9)

Dir: Amos Gitai | Israel/France | 2015 | 153m | Hebrew w/ English subs



On November 4, 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated at a political rally in Tel Aviv. The killer was a 25-year-old student and observant Jew. As acclaimed filmmaker Amos Gitai reveals in his provocative new film, the murder was the culmination of a climate of hate and paranoia fueled by the hysterical rhetoric and political intrigue of extremists who condemned Rabin by invoking an obscure Talmudic ruling and

prominent right-wing politicians who joined in the campaign of incitement. Winner of the Human Rights Film Network Award at the Venice Film Festival. "I hope a lot of Americans see this film for the warning it offers." *Thomas Friedman, NYT* "A tough-minded, unflinching work of art, the first great film of 2016." *Jewish Week* "Both a political thriller and a work of conscience." *Hollywood Reporter*

### SUMMER SOLSTICE / Letnie Przesilenie

Thu, May 19, 8:00 pm @ MFA Boston (Remis) **MASSACHUSETTS PREMIERE**

Q&A with Professor Antony Polonsky

Dir: Michal Rogalski | Poland/Germany | 2015 | 95m | Polish & German w/ English subs

This searing drama set in the summer of 1943 in provincial Poland under German occupation follows two teenage boys. Polish railway worker Romek scavenges the train tracks for goods, immune to the fate of the human cargo passing by, while Guido, a Jazz-loving German military policeman, becomes more ruthless by the day. With his award-winning script and arresting cinematographic visual style, Polish director Michal Rogalski exposes the brutality of war and the corrosive power of antisemitism. Winner Best Script, Montreal World Film Festival; Best Cinematography & Best Supporting Actress, Gdynia Film Festival



CO-PRESENTED BY: Samat Center for the Study of Anti-Jewishness at Brandeis University; Center for German & European Studies at Brandeis University

SPONSOR: American Association for Polish Jewish Studies

### TANGO GLORIES / Glorias del Tango

Sat, May 7, 7:00 pm @ ICA **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

Fri, May 13, 3:00 pm @ MFA Boston (Alfond)

Dir: Hernán Findling & Oliver Kolker | Argentina | 2014 | 109m | Spanish w/ English subs

Featuring exquisite dance numbers, gracious performances, and a hint of the surreal, this Argentinian drama finds Buenos Aires psychiatrist Ezequiel Kaufman (Gastón Pauls) flummoxed by his new patient Fermin (veteran actor Héctor Alterio), a prickly octogenarian who communicates only in tango lyrics. As the connection between the two men grows, and as Ezequiel falls for Fermin's dance-instructor daughter, we are transported back to Buenos Aires in the 1940s, where Fermin navigated love and betrayal as one of

the city's most popular tango dancers. Surrender to the power of Tango!

SPONSOR: Argentinean Jewish Relief Committee; Boston Latino International Film Festival

### THE VENICE GHETTO, 500 YEARS OF LIFE

Thu, May 12, 5:30 pm @ MFA Boston (Remis) **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

Celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Venice Ghetto

Q&A with Professor Benjamin Ravid

Dir: Emanuela Giordano | Italy/France | 2015 | 54m | Italian & French w/ English subs

The rich story of the Jews of Venice is celebrated in this charming film, which uses an inventive mix of documentary and drama, animation, location photography, and interviews. Conjuring up 500 years of history, language, architecture, food, art, and politics—even the smells of market day—the film explores the unique character of Venetian Jewish life, which began in the 14th century when Ashkenazi, Sephardic, and Levantine Jews arrived in Venice, then the center of trade between the East and West.

CO-PRESENTED BY: Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry at Brandeis University

### WEDDING DOLL / תוננה מנייר

Fri, May 20, 7:00 pm @ MFA Boston (Remis) **MASSACHUSETTS PREMIERE**

Sun, May 22, 4:30 pm @ W. Newton Cinema

Dir: Nitzan Gilady | Israel | 2015 | 82m | Hebrew w/ English subs

The radiant Moran Rosenblatt (*Apples from the Dessert*) won the Israeli Academy Award for her portrayal of Hagit, a dreamer who lives with her loving but protective mother Sarah (Assi Levy, *Aviva My Love*) in a desert town. Socially alienated by a childhood brain injury, Hagit finds escape in designing bridal gowns and miniature dolls out of leftover materials from the toilet paper factory where she works. When writer-director Nitzan Gilady (*Jerusalem is Proud to Present* NCJF'08) frames her against the stark amber-colored Negev desert, it is impossible not to feel Hagit's formidable will. Winner Best Actress (Assi Levy) and Best Debut Israeli Feature, Jerusalem FF. "Fantastic. Built on two remarkable leading performances. Rosenblatt is magnificent." *Cinevue*

SPONSOR: Israel Campus Roundtable; Boston Jewish Film Festival; Consulate General of Israel to New England



