THE HILLS ARE ALIVE AT THE

BERKSHIRE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY KNESSET ISRAEL





BERKSHIRE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

2021 marks the **35th anniversary** of the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival. The brainchild of Dr. Zev Raviv, the festival was led by Margie Metzger for 30 years.

For the first 20 years, the films were shown on a 16mm projector at Knesset Israel in either the Sanctuary or the Social Hall. At the very beginning, a crowd of 25 was considered a success. Amy Abramovich helped run the concession where people could buy ice cream and other goodies. Because it was (and still is) a fundraiser for the Knesset Israel Hebrew School, it was important to involve the students, and each year a contest was held to design the program cover.

The tide turned with the screening of the documentary, *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg*. There was standing room only and it was then that public perception of the film festival changed. And the rest is history!

Over these past 35 years, the BJFF has shown hundreds of films to thousands of people. Last year with the pandemic forcing us to close the theater doors, we were able to continue as a virtual festival showing films online and engaging our audience members with Zoom talkbacks. This year we are celebrating with a full **seven weeks of programming.** Including the five short films being shown on August 9th, we are offering **eighteen films** in total. Our films range from political documentaries and biographies to comedies, heartfelt family stories, and animation.

We couldn't run this festival without our loyal volunteers. While they are listed on page 2, we felt that their hard work deserves much recognition.

Beth Kruvant has joined as Co-Artistic Director. Her love of film brought us an abundance of documentaries and narratives from which to choose. Marcie Kammel, as Associate Artistic Director and Head of the Screening Committee, has become an invaluable member of the BJFF. Joel Curran has been Head of Publicity for well over 25 years and has decided to take retirement after this summer. We will miss him. Amy Abramovich, who has



joined Joel this year, will be assuming the job fully in 2022. Judy Cook is Head of Advertising and works tirelessly securing ads for our much-needed fundraiser. Alexandra Warshaw has joined her again in this effort. Ed Udel and Don Sugarman work on grant applications. Laura Rosenthal is joining our team and will be coordinating various accounting tasks. Margo Golos is back again this summer to continue strengthening our financial resources. Ev Bastow checks our telephone messages and answers the many questions we receive from our viewers. Steve Rosenthal handles the e-newsletter, Zoom talkbacks, and audience evaluations. We appreciate Diana MacFarlane's invaluable assistance with our mailings. Without the dedication and hard work by Myrna Hammerling, so much of the inner workings of the film festival would not be possible.

Stay safe and healthy, Judy Seaman and Beth Kruvant Co-Artistic Directors, BJFF

The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival would like to acknowledge the passing of one of our outstanding volunteers, Myrna Hammerling. Her expertise, her wisdom, and her warmth were greatly appreciated. She will be missed. Our thoughts are with her family.

The Film Festival Committee

Our sincere appreciation to all of our committee members who work very hard throughout the year to bring you an exciting and successful festival!

Co-Artistic Directors: Judy Seaman, Beth Kruvant

Past Chair: Ed Udel

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We are grateful to the Jewish Arts and Cultural Initiative of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation for supporting us in part over these many years. We would like to thank our loyal fans and supporters who return every year to enjoy our outstanding film offerings!

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Welcome.

Thank you for attending the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival, which in turn supports Hebrew School and family programming at Knesset Israel. Knesset Israel is an innovator in the rapidly changing world of American Judaism. We create authentic and meaningful points of connection and spiritual experiences for contemporary Jews and cultivate a community to make a positive difference in the world. Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, our flourishing congregation is inclusive and supportive and accepts a wide range of beliefs and Jewish practice. People of all ages, religious backgrounds, genders and orientations find a supportive community here.

During this uniquely challenging year, the leaders of Knesset Israel worked tirelessly to continue our holy work of inspiration, connection and accompaniment of each other on life's journey. Informed by Torah and mitzvot, we have discovered new ways to daven, study and give tzedaka. This summer we are especially pleased to be gathering in person in our sanctuary for services, which are also livestreamed. We welcome broad participation in our programming throughout the year. And we appreciate the generous support of every participant in the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival.

Our Synagogue website at **www.knessetisrael.org** is an up-to-date source for our schedule, livestream and information about Jewish life in the Berkshires.

L'shalom, Rabbi David Weiner rabbiweiner@outlook.com



KNESSET ISRAEL welcomes members and guests from a very wide range of backgrounds and points of view. We are highly participatory and fully egalitarian, including both women and men in leadership roles. Our Kabbalat Shabbat services change in style from week to week, and shabbat morning services include a teaching by Rabbi David Weiner.

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Minyan, 8:45 a.m. - in person and livestream

Tuesday & Thursday Evening Davening, 7:00 p.m. - Zoom (click for link)

Kabbalat Shabbat, Friday, 5:45 p.m. - in person and livestream

Shabbat Morning, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - in person and livestream

Tisha B'av - Saturday, July 17 8:00 p.m. (minha); 9:15 p.m. (maariv & eicha) in person and livestream

Selihot - Saturday, August 28 7:15 p.m. (minha); 8:15 p.m. (maariv & selihot) in person and livestream

For further information, please call the Synagogue office at (413) 445-4872 or visit our website at www.knessetisrael.org



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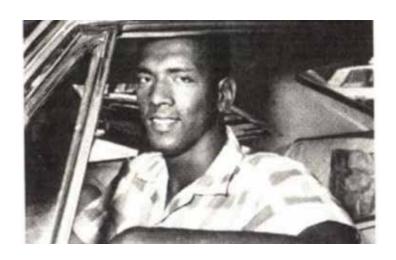


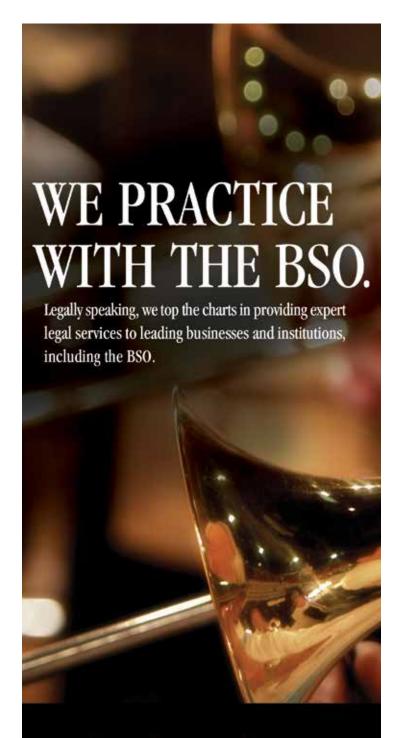


A Crime on the Bayou

A Crime on the Bayou tells the story of a lasting bond formed between an unjustly arrested black man, Gary Duncan, and Richard Sobol, his young Jewish attorney. In 1966, 19-year-old Duncan faced the white supremacist court system in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, for daring to touch a white boy's arm. Standing united, the pair took the case all the way to the US Supreme Court to fight for the rights of all Americans to a fair trial.

Documentary, 89 minutes, 2020, English Directed by Nancy Buirski





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Mr. Jones

High on his recent success as the fearless journalist who just interviewed Hitler, Gareth Jones goes on to become the first person to expose *The New York Times* cover-up of the atrocities of the Holodomor, Stalin's man-made famine that killed millions of Ukrainians between the years 1932-33. (Courtesy RogerEbert.com)

Narrative, 141 minutes, 2019, English Directed by Agnieszka Holland





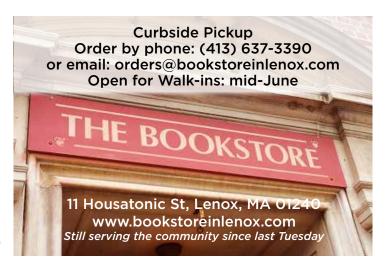


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Schocken: On the Verge of Consensus

Salman Schocken, the King of department stores in Germany before WWII, possessed a unique collection of 60,000 rare books, founded a modern, Jewish publishing house, and later owned the *Haaretz* newspaper which still survives on the edge of consensus.

Documentary, 75 minutes, 2020, Hebrew, German (English subtitles) Directed by Noemi Schory





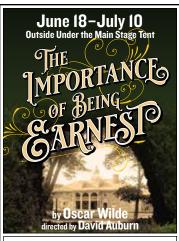




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Michael Tilson Thomas: Where Now is

Born into a creative Jewish family, Michael Tilson Thomas is the third generation of his family to pursue an artistic career and has spent his life stretching the boundaries of classical music.

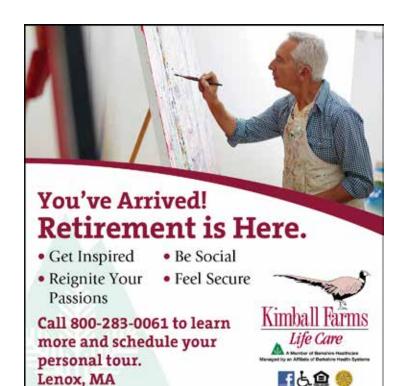
In 1970, Tilson Thomas was considered the great young hope of American classical music. Becoming a star overnight when he stepped in mid-concert for the ailing Boston Symphony conductor, the expectations for him were limitless. But free-spirited MTT went his own way.

Oscillating between performance and the personal, *Michael Tilson Thomas: Where Now Is* offers an intimate look at an exceptional artist who continues to blaze his own trail. Courtesy Jewish Film Institute

Documentary, 97 minutes, 2020, English Directed by Susan Froemke and Kirk Simon



This film has been generously sponsored by the Wolfson Family Foundation, MountainOne, the Spitz-Tuchman Charitable Trust and the John Bergman Charitable Trust



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JULY 19, 4 PM





Soros

Billionaire activist George Soros is one of the most influential and controversial figures of our time. Famous for betting against the Bank of England in 1992 and making a billion dollars in one day, he is maligned by ideologues on both the left and the right for daring to tackle the world's problems and putting his money behind his fight – from free elections and freedom of the press to civil rights for minorities. With unprecedented access to the man and his inner circle, director Jesse Dylan follows Soros across the globe and pulls back the curtain on his personal history, private wealth, and public activism. Soros reveals a complicated genius whose experience as a Jew during the Holocaust gave rise to a lifelong crusade against authoritarianism and hate. Courtesy Sorosfilm.com

Documentary, 86 minutes, 2019, English Directed by Jesse Dylan



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JULY 19, 8 PM





Shalom Taiwan

This uplifting dramatic comedy follows the misadventures of Rabbi Aaron as he tries to raise funds to repay a loan from a moneylender who has called in the debt. With the threat of having his community center seized as property, Rabbi Aaron embarks on a last-ditch fundraising effort by traveling to Taiwan to attract donors. What follows is a transformative journey that enriches his life. Beautifully shot on location, *Shalom Taiwan* imbues the values of family, community and optimism. Courtesy Toronto Jewish Film Festival

Narrative, 85 min, 2019, Spanish (English subtitles) Directed by Walter Tejblum



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Magic Men

A jaded Holocaust survivor who has renounced his faith, Avraham (Makram Khoury) resents the piety of his middle-aged son Yehuda (Zohar Strauss), a devout Hassidic rapper. When the aging Avraham decides to return to his native Greece to find the man who offered shelter and taught him magic during WWII, he is compelled to bring Yehuda as his guardian. Arriving in Greece, father and son are forced to confront their prickly relationship with the help of a kindhearted prostitute, Maria (Ariane Labed). So begins a cross-cultural, cross-generational road trip as these richly conceived characters search for absolution and reconciliation.

Narrative, 100 minutes, 2014, Hebrew (English subtitles) Directed by Guy Nattiv and Erez Tadmor



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JULY 26, 8 PM





'Til Kingdom Come

Til Kingdom Come unravels the global significance of American Christians' dogma concerning Israel's role in the Second Coming. Prominent among the millions of American Evangelicals praying for Israel is Pastor Boyd Bingham IV, one in a line of a dynasty of Kentucky pastors, and the congregants he leads in a small coal-mining town. Firm in his conviction that his calling in life is to raise money for Israel and his congregants' donations are fueled by the belief that Jews are crucial to Jesus's return.

Documentary, 76 minutes, 2020, English Directed by Maya Zinshtein



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AUGUST 2, 4 PM





The Invisible Line – America's Nazi Experiment

Little did history teacher Ron Jones know his unusual class exercise would become a global scandal still reverberating in print, screen and stage adaptations, including a well-known TV movie, *The Wave*. Seeking to explain how Hitler brainwashed the Germans, skeptical high school students were subjected to a Nazi-like code of conduct. The five-day experiment spiraled out of control, attracting hundreds of students to the rising fascist movement. Now, some 50 years later, Jones, his wife, and original pupils reunite to share their troubling memories and reflect on the trauma and regret that haunt them still. Courtesy Atlanta Jewish Film Festival

Documentary, 53 minutes, 2020, English Directed by Emanual Rotstein





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AUGUST 2, 8 PM





Tango Shalom

Moshe Yehuda, a Hasidic Rabbi and amateur Hora dancer, played by Jos Laniado, enters a big televised Tango competition to save his Hebrew school from bankruptcy. There is only one problem: due to his orthodox religious beliefs, he is not allowed to touch a woman! At odds with his wife and five kids, the Grand Rabbi of his orthodox sect, and Moshe's entire Hasidic community in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, Moshe is forced to ask a Catholic priest, a Muslim imam, and a Sikh holy man for advice. Together, they hash out a plan to help Moshe dance in the Tango contest without sacrificing his sacred beliefs, setting in motion a fun, passionate dance movie. Heart-pumping and heartwarming, Tango Shalom tests the bonds of family and community, and the bounds of tolerance and faith.

Narrative, 115 minutes, 2020, English Directed by Gabriel Bologna



This film has been generously sponsored by the Wolfson Family Foundation, the Spitz-Tuchman Charitable Trust and the John Bergman Charitable Trust



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AUGUST 9, 4 PM



5 SHORT FILMS

Cinema Rex

At a famed 1930s Jerusalem cinematheque, a Jewish boy and an Arab girl bond over their love of movies.

Animation, 8 minutes, 2020, Hebrew (English subtitles) Directed by Mayan Engelman, Eliran Peled



Mum's Hairpins

Yasha, a young Jewish boy, seizes a last chance to escape a Ukrainian shtetl under siege from Nazi invaders in this somber, poetic, and haunting tale of survival and loss.

Narrative, 20 minutes, 2019, Russian (English subtitles) Directed by Tatiana Fedorovskaya



Eddy's World

The entertaining story of Eddy Goldfarb, a 98-year-old working toy inventor, best known for the iconic Yakity Yak Teeth and nearly 800 classic toys.

Documentary, 28 minutes, English Directed by Lyn Goldfarb





Empty Spaces

Nati, an officer in the IDF is heading south with three soldiers in order to perform a very complicated mission.

Narrative, 27 minutes, 2021, Hebrew (subtitles) Directed by Ben Ziv



A Father's Kaddish

Sitting at his potter's wheel to heal emotionally and honor his son's memory, a grieving New England father shares his contemplative, meditative ritual of creating exquisite works of art born of love, tragedy and time. Courtesy Atlanta Jewish Film Festival

Short documentary, 31 minutes, English Directed by Jen Kaplan





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AUGUST 9, 8 PM





200 Meters

A Palestinian father embarks on a perilous journey to reach his hospitalized son in this tense yet tender family drama about the human toll of oppression. Due to economics, construction worker Mustafa (a complex, compassionate Ali Suliman) and his wife live separated by the West Bank wall. After his son has an accident, Mustafa is denied access at an Israeli checkpoint due to a bureaucratic technicality, forcing him to hire a driver to smuggle him to the other side. Thrown in with a motley crew of strangers, desperate Mustafa must surmount myriad hurdles and indignities to be at his child's bedside. Courtesy Atlanta JFF.

Narrative, 96 minutes, 2021, Hebrew (English subtitles) Directed by Ameen Nayfeh





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AUGUST 16, 4 PM





Comrade Dov

For years, Heymann has been following Dov Khenin, a leading legislator, creating a film that examines the open wounds of contemporary Israeli society: from the forced removal of the residents of Givat Amal to turbulent meetings of the Knesset's Finance Committee, and down to the violent events at Umm al-Hiran. Courtesy Heymann Brothers Films.

Documentary, 75 minutes, 2019, Hebrew (English subtitles) Directed by Barak Heymann



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AUGUST 16, 8 PM





Winter Journey

Starring Bruno Ganz in his last film and based on conversations American radio host Martin Goldsmith had with his father about his experiences during WWII. After the Nuremberg Laws were enacted in 1935, Martin Goldsmith's parents, both musicians, were only allowed to perform as members of the Jewish Cultural Federation (Kulturbund), a remarkable arts organization fully controlled by the Reich Chamber of Culture. Hailed as "a masterpiece," "a miracle," "exhilarating," and "sublime" by critics in Europe, and "haunting" and "phenomenal" by The Hollywood Insider, Winter Journey is both a highly personal meditation on fate and a fascinating exploration of a little-known aspect of the Nazi era of German history.

Narrative Non-fiction, 90 minutes, 2020, English, German (English subtitles)
Directed by Anders Østergaard







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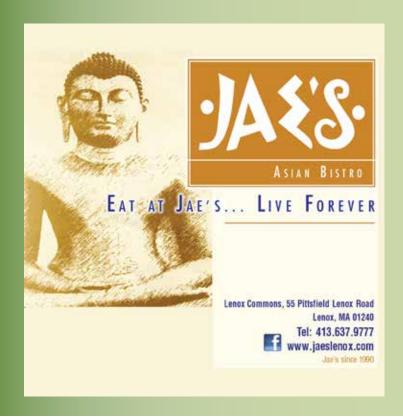


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A Classy Broad

A Crime on the Bayou

A Father's Kaddish Across the Waters

Ahead of Time

Alien VI

Americaner Shakhan The Angel Levine

Anita

At the Crossroads

Au Revoir Les Enfants

Ave Maria

Bang! The Bert Berns Story

Barney's Version

Beau Jest

Because of That War Belle and Sebastian

Berlin '36

Bernie

Bespoke Overcoat

Best Man Big Sonia

Black Box

Black to the Promised Land

Blessed is the Match

The Blum Affair

Bogdan's Journey

Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi

Book of Days

Boynton Beach Club

Breakfast at Ina's

Bride Flight Brighton Beach

Broadway Musicals: A Jewish

Legacy

Broken Mirrors

Brooklyn: Among the Ruin

Brothers

Brundibar Revisited

Buzz

The Cafeteria

The Cage

The Cakemaker

La Camera Obscura

Castel: Portrait of an Artist

Charlotte

Chicks in White Satin

Cinema Rex

The Clown and the Fuhrer

Commissar

Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter

Comrade Dov

Constantine's Sword

The Counterfeiters

Cours Toujours

The Cummington Story

Cup Final

David

The Day I Saw Your Heart

Deadly Currents

Dogs: The Rise and Fall of an

All Girls Bookie Joint

Don't Get Involved

Eddy's World

Eichmann

Ellis Island

Empty Spaces

Fictious Marriage

51 Birch Street The First Israeli in Space

Focus

Follow Me: The Jonathan

Netanyahu Story

For My Father

Foreign Letters

Foxtrot

Freedom Runners

Free Men

Fugitive Pieces

Gefilte Fish

Gilad Shalit

Give It Back! Gloomy Sunday

Go For Zucker

GO I OI ZUCKEI

God's Fiddler: Jascha Heifetz

Golda

Golden Age of Second Avenue

Good

Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds: The Conductor Zubin

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Music Holy Silence

How to Reestablish a Vodka Empire

Human Remains Hunting Elephants

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and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal

The Imported Bridegroom

In Our Own Hands Isaac In America

Isn't This a Time

It's Now or Never Ivan and Abraham

James' Journey to Jerusalem

The Jazz Baroness

Je Suis Charlie

The Jew in the Lotus

Jewish Soldiers in Blue and Gray

Jews and Baseball

Joan Crawford Didn't Say No

Joe's Violin

Kaddish

Kasrilevka on the Mississippi

Kazablan: A Toast to the

"Sephardim"

Keep Away From the Window

Keep on Walking

Keep Quiet

Keep the Change

A Kid for Two Farthings

Killing Kasztner

A Kiss to This Land

Knowledge is the Beginning

Korczak

Kuni Lemel in Tel Avi

The Last Dance

The Last Klezmer

The Last Suit

Latter Day Jew

Left Luggage

Legacy of Rosina Lhevinne

Leonard Bernstein: Reaching for

the Note

Let's Fall in Love: A Singles

Weekend at the Concord

Hotel

Letters to Jenny

Levinsky Park

Levy and Goliath

Lies My Father Told Me

A Life Apart

Life Through a Lens

The Life and Times of Allen

Ginsberg

The Life and Times of Hank

Greenberg

The Light Ahead

The Little Nazi

The Little Traitor

Live and Become

Love and Dance Love and Taxes

Love One Another

Lovers in Minsk

Ma'abarot

The Mad Adventures of Rabbi Jacob

Magic Men

Mahler on the Couch

Making the Music (Mahler on the

Couch)

Mamele

The Man Without a World

Marlene Deitrich - Her Own Song

Mary and Max

A Matter of Size

MAX

Max Davidson Comedies

Max Minsky and Me

Mendel

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Where Now Is

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Mirele Efros

Moments

Moos

Mr. Jones

Mrs. G

Mum's Hairpins

My Architect: A Son's Journey

My Best Enemy

My Dad Baryshnikov

My Hero Brother

My Knees Were Jumping

My Mother's Courage

Next Stop Greenwich Village

Night Movie

Noodle

The Nose Job Jew

Not Everybody's Lucky Enough to

Have Communist Parents

Obsession: Radical Islam's War Against the West Occupancy August 1 Oliver Sacks: His Own Life On the Map One Day Crossing Orchestra in Be'er Shabab Orthodox Stance Oslo Diaries Overture to Glory

Paper Clips The Pickle Recipe The Plot Against Harry The Poet and the Con Projections of America

The Quarrel

The Rabbi from Hezbollah
Raindrops
Remember
Refusniks
Reunion
Rewind
The Ritchie Boys
The Righteous Enemy
Rise and Fall of the Borscht Belt

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Sophie Scholl – The Final Days

Stan Getz: A Musical Odyssey

The Summer of Aviya Sweet Lorraine Sweet Mud Syrian Bride

Tango Shalom The Invisible Line - America's Nazi Experiment The Tailor Ten From Your Show of Shows Terezin Diary Thank You and Goodnight Then She Found Me 39 Pounds of Love A Tickle in the Heart 'Til Kingdom Come Time of Favor To Be A Child Again, Israel To Be or Not To Be Toots Torn Apart Train of Life Trembling Before God A Trumpet in the Wadi Two Minutes to Faradis

Uncle Moses
Under the Domin Tree
Under the Roller Coaster
Unknown Secrets: Art in the
Rosenberg Era
Ushpizin

The Valley Train
Very Semi-Serious
Voices From the Attic

Waltz with Bashir

Waves of Freedom
Watermarks
Wedding in Galilee
West Bank Story
Where I Stand: The Hank
Greenspun Story
When Shirley Met Florence
Winter Journey
Who's Gonna Love Me Now?
Women Unchained
Woody Before Allen

Yankles The Year My Parents Went on Vacation Yidl in the Middle

Zemene

Slingshot

Standing Silent Stealing the Fire

Soros

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