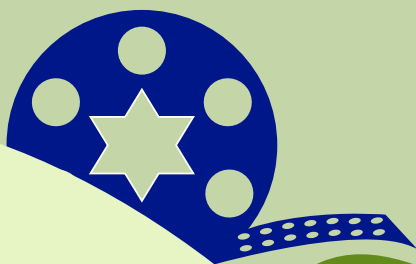


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BERKSHIRE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

2022 marks the 36th anniversary of the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival and we feel doubly blessed for the continued life of our beloved film festival. We are keenly aware that there are many good and urgent causes that pull at us every day. When we look at the Hebrew School, we know that in our small part of the world here in the Berkshires, we are helping to further the Jewish people, instilling the values we have lived by for generations: caring for the sick, welcoming the stranger, and giving tzedakah.

Over these past many years, the BJFF has shown hundreds of films to thousands of people. Two years ago, 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 showing films from Ukraine, Israel, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Germany, and the United States. Our films tell the stories of the healing power of family, stories of marginalized people, points of connection between those of different backgrounds, and more.

We could not run this festival without your support. Thank you to our loyal advertisers, our underwriters and supporters and our hard-working volunteers.

See you online and as we say on Pesach, Next Year in the Theater!

Judy Seaman
Beth Kruvant
Artistic Directors, BJFF

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!

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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.

We hope that Film Festival attendees who find themselves in the Berkshires this summer will participate in other Knesset Israel programming. This summer we are especially pleased to be gathering in person in our sanctuary for Shabbat morning services, which are also livestreamed, followed by kiddush luncheons. Friday night and Sunday morning services will take place outdoors on the KI property. The summer calendar includes the return of JTS in the Berkshires and a brand new hiking program - see www.knessetisrael.org for details and to sign up.

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.

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. Vaccination against Covid-19 is required for in-person attendance at KI services and events.

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

- Sunday Morning Minyan, 8:45 a.m. – at KI
- Tuesday & Thursday Evening Davening, 7:00 p.m. – Zoom ([click for link](#))
- Kabbalat Shabbat, Friday, 5:45 p.m. – Outdoors at KI. Some services are followed by dinner (RSVP required).
- Shabbat Morning, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – at KI and [livestream](#). Followed by Kiddush lunch

Tisha B'av

- Saturday, August 6, 9:00 p.m. – at KI and [livestream](#)
- Sunday, August 7, 8:45 a.m. – at KI

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



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Song Searcher

Song Searcher is the story of Moyshe Beregovsky's lifelong search for authentic Yiddish folk music and of his unique archive, which was presumed to be lost forever. Beregovsky, a musician and scholar, crisscrossed Ukraine with his phonograph in hand, during the most dramatic years of Soviet history in order to record and study the traditional music of Ukrainian Jewry. His work began in the 1920s and led to his arrest and imprisonment in a Stalinist labor camp in 1950. Ultimately, Beregovsky succeeded in saving the musical heritage of the centuries-old Yiddish civilization.

Documentary , 82 minutes, 2021, Ukraine, English
Directed by Elena Yakovich





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JULY 11, 8 PM



Rose

Actress and now debuting director, writer and composer Aurélie Saada, pours a tremendous amount of personal nostalgia into *Rose*, a heightened emotional drama steeped in love for her North African Jewish roots, from music (all written by Saada) to food – the credits even include her recipe for ‘makroudh,’ a date-filled cookie. The film stars legendary French actress Françoise Fabian (Luis Bunuel’s *Belle de Jour* and Eric Rohmer’s *My Night at Maud’s*) as a recent widow whose sorrow gives way to a deep thirst for life. This helps her realize that there is still time for her to redefine herself as a woman, all while emerging from under her children’s straight jacketing concerns. *Rose* is an all-embracing effusion of Jewishness, both Sephardi and Ashkenazi, that promises to be a sure-fire crowd-pleaser.

Courtesy, Miami Jewish Film Festival

Narrative, 102 minutes, 2021, France. French, Yiddish with subtitles
Directed by Aurelie Saada





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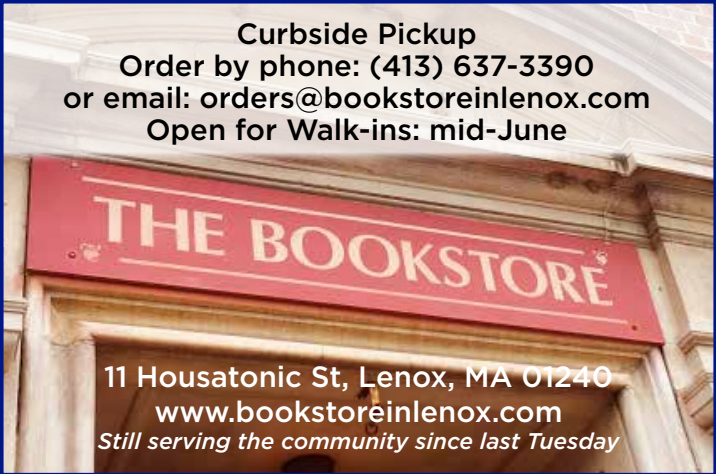
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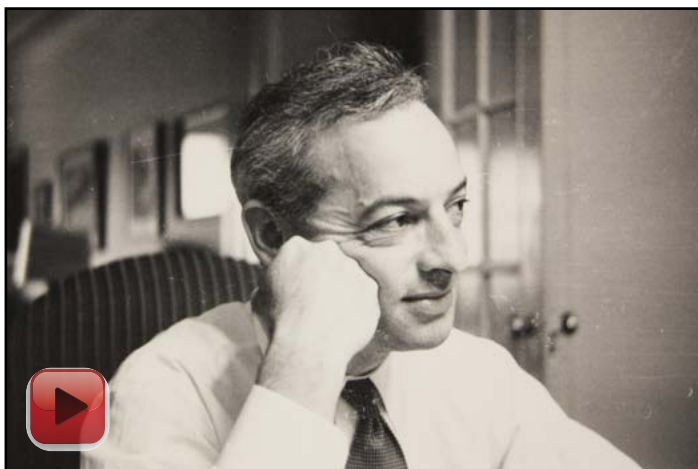
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JULY 18, 4 PM



The Adventures of Saul Bellow

Erudite and unvarnished, this meticulous appraisal examines the oeuvre and inner life of one of the 20th century's most renowned if problematic authors. Saul Bellow's prolific chronicling of post-war American Jewish life earned him a Pulitzer, Nobel, and a trio of National Book Awards. With witty tongue and sharp insights, the Canadian-born, Chicago-based writer's breezy style melds streetwise argot with intellectualism. While profiling the disaffected modern urban man, Bellow's outlooks on race, gender, and politics—and philandering reputation—were not without controversy. This must-see for bibliophiles weaves excerpts from his novels with reflections from contemporaries, including Philip Roth, Salman Rushdie, and Martin Amis.

Documentary, 85 minutes, 2021, USA. English
Directed by Asaf Galay



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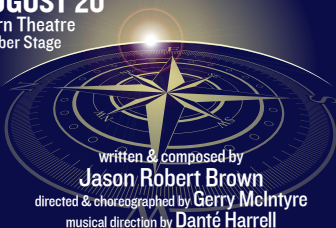
music and lyrics by **Glen Hansard** and **Markéta Irglová**
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AUGUST 6-28



ALL OF ME WORLD PREMIERE
By LAURA WINTERS
Directed by ASHLEY BROOKE MONROE
SEPTEMBER 21-OCTOBER 9



ANDY WARHOL IN IRAN WORLD PREMIERE
By BRENT ASKARI
Directed by SKIP GREER
JUNE 2-25



ABCD WORLD PREMIERE
By MAY TREUHAFT-ALI
Directed by DANIEL J. BRYANT
JULY 1-23



THE SUPADUPA KID WORLD PREMIERE
YOUTH THEATRE
Book & Lyrics by by SUKARI JONES
Music by JOEL WAGGONER
Based on the novel by TY ALLAN JACKSON
Directed by NJ AGWUNA
JULY 29-AUGUST 13



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The Automat

Featuring testimonials from former customers, including comedy icons Mel Brooks and Carl Reiner, this fascinating film delves deep into America's most iconic automat restaurant chain, Horn & Hardart. Before there was fast food as we know it, there was Horn & Hardart, a beloved chain that was much more than a place for cheap eats. These restaurants formed a vital part of America's social fabric in the first half of the 20th Century as filmmaker Lisa Hurwitz demonstrates in this valuable documentary. Opening its first location in Philadelphia in 1902, Horn & Hardart was the first stateside example of a European-style automat, a restaurant in which coin-operated vending machines offered everything from baked beans and macaroni to Salisbury steak and a mouth-watering array of pies. Eventually expanding to New York City, Horn & Hardart became a cultural phenomenon and an institution, attracting customers from diverse backgrounds with its democratic combination of pocket-friendly cuisine and gleaming, aspirational design. Mel Brooks contributes a new original song for the film.

Documentary, 79 minutes, 2021 USA. English
Directed by Lisa Hurwitz

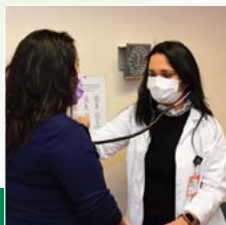
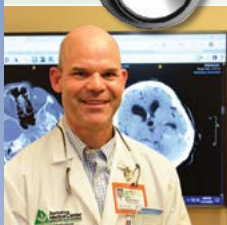




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JULY 25, 4 PM



Ronnie's

Ronnie's chronicles the life of saxophonist Ronnie Scott, a poor, Jewish kid growing up in 1940s East End, London who became the owner of the eponymous nightclub. Musical greats spanning decades played at Ronnie's including Dizzy Gillespie, Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, Miles Davis, Rahsaan Roland Kirk, Nina Simone, Van Morrison, Chet Baker, and Jimi Hendrix, who played there the night of his death. Glorious clips bring to life this legendary jazz club and its charming yet tormented owner.

Documentary, 103 minutes, 2020, UK. English

Directed by Oliver Murray





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More Than I Deserve

Newly arrived in Israel, a single immigrant mother and son are deeply affected by their relationship with a religious neighbor, in this finely textured coming-of-age drama. Twelve-year-old Pinhas (newcomer Micha Prudovsky) is mostly alone while his Ukrainian mom works to make ends meet. When the boy asks permission to join classmates in bar mitzvah studies, frazzled Tamara (Ana Dubrovitzki)—who resists religion—refuses. To her dismay, Pinhas turns for help to a recent Chabad recruit, bachelor Shimon (Yaakov Zada Daniel), the new relationship changing all three lives in unforeseen ways. Nominated for seven Israeli Academy Awards, this Jerusalem Film Fest Best Screenplay winner reflects uncommon emotional depth in its nuanced portrayal of the plight of immigrants to Israel.

***Narrative, 82 minutes, 2021, Israel. Hebrew, Russian with subtitles
Directed by Pini Tavger***



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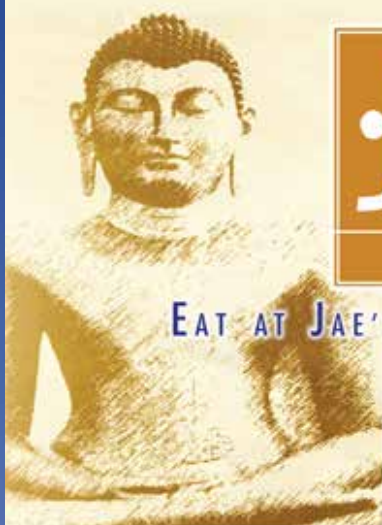
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AUGUST 1, 4 PM



The Lost Film of Nuremberg

Adapted from Sandra Schulberg's monograph *Filmmakers for the Prosecution*, *The Lost Film of Nuremberg* retraces the hunt for film evidence that could convict the Nazis at the Nuremberg Trial. The searchers were two sons of Hollywood—brothers Budd and Stuart Schulberg—serving under the command of OSS film chief John Ford. The motion pictures they presented in the courtroom became part of the official record and shape our understanding of the Holocaust to this day. Seventy-five years after the trial, French journalist and filmmaker Jean-Christophe Klotz returns to the German salt mines where films lay burning, uncovers never-before-seen footage, and interviews key figures to unravel why the resulting film about the trial—*Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today* by Stuart Schulberg—was intentionally buried by the U.S. Department of War. Klotz's riveting film also fills in the gaps of how these groundbreaking materials were sourced and poses still-pertinent questions about documentarians' obligations to posterity.

Documentary, 52 minutes, 2021 France/USA. English
Directed by Jean-Christophe Klotz





(l-r) Frederick M. Keator, 1919; Frederick Keator, 1944; Raymond Keator, 1944; George Keator, 1960

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AUGUST 1, 8 PM



Here We Are

Aharon has devoted his life to raising his son Uri. They live together in a gentle routine, away from the real world. But Uri is autistic, and now as a young adult, it might be time for him to live in a specialized home. While on their way to the institution, Aharon decides to run away with his son and hits the road, knowing that Uri is not ready for this separation. Or is it, in fact, his father who is not ready?

***Narrative, 92 minutes, 2020, Israel. Hebrew with subtitles
Directed by Nir Bergman***



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AUGUST 8, 4 PM



Shorts Program

POPS

How would you react if your father's last wish was a little bit out there? For siblings Roz and Elli, it becomes a battleground for who will determine their Pop's final journey.

Narrative, 20 minutes, 2021, UK. English

Directed by Lewis Rose

In The Image of God

A Los Angeles rabbi's eye-opening and heartfelt journey of transition, faith, and fulfillment, as the fourth generation in his family to be born intersex.

Documentary, 15 minutes, 2021, USA. English

Directed by Bianca Rondolino

The Inspection

A school inspector confronts a history teacher about her approach to teaching the Holocaust, in this timely and tightly scripted exploration of the pressures on educators to sanitize history.

Narrative, 16 minutes, 2021, France. French with subtitles

Directed by Frederic Bas, Caroline Brami

Becoming Nakuset

An intimate film about Nakuset, an Indigenous survivor of the 60s scoop who was adopted into an affluent Jewish family in Montreal. Her story highlights her strength and resilience, and her love for her Bubbe.

Documentary, 13 minutes, 2020, Canada. English

Directed by Victoria Anderson-Gardner

Petit Rat

A Jewish girl's dream of becoming a ballerina is destroyed by the Nazi invasion of Paris. Decades later, she and her daughters dance together for the very first time, towards reconciliation and forgiveness.

Documentary, 40 minutes, 2021, USA. English

Directed by Vera Wagman



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AUGUST 8, 8 PM



Let It Be Morning

In this wryly observed, melancholic dramedy—Israel's official Oscar submission—Palestinian returns to his village, only to find himself physically and emotionally trapped by a military blockade. An unhappily married Jerusalem businessman, Sami has reluctantly traveled to his dusty Arab hometown with his wife and son for a wedding. When the Israeli army puts everyone in security lockdown without warning, the situation descends into chaos. As Sami ruefully reassesses his place in Israeli society, class divisions between Arab neighbors are exacerbated. Israeli filmmaker Eran Kolirin (*The Band's Visit*) adapts Palestinian author-journalist Sayed Kashua's novel into a gentle but pointed satire that swept the Israeli Academy Awards.

Narrative, 101 minutes, 2021, France, Israel. Arabic, Hebrew, with subtitles

Directed by Eran Kolirin



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AUGUST 15, 4 PM



Cinema Sabaya

Nine women, Arab and Jewish, take part in a video workshop hosted by Rona, a young film director, who teaches them how to document their lives. With each raw home-made footage shot by the women and shared with the others, the group dynamic forces them to challenge their views and beliefs as they get to know each other and themselves better.

Narrative, 91 minutes, 2021, Israel. Hebrew, Arabic with subtitles

Directed by Orit Fouks Rotem





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Index of Advertisers

A & A Memorials	34	Heirlooms Jewelry	31
Adams CommunityBank	31	Helitzer, Edwin	25
Ancestry Memorials	13	Jae's Bistro	26
Barrington Stage Co.	17	Jewish Federation of the Berkshires	8
Benjamin Smith Assoc.	36	KA&Q CPA	35
Berkshire Bank Foundation	33	Keator Investments	28
Berkshire Health Systems	19	Kimball Farms	20
Berkshire Place Page	34	Lipton Energy	22
Berkshire Print Shop	26	MacFarlane Office	25
Berkshire Theatre Group	16	Mountain One	11
The Bookstore	13	New England Security	34
Carr Hardware	20	OLLI	14
CBC Bookkeeping	31	Paul Rich & Sons	14
CHP	23	Pittsfield Co-op Bank	36
Cohen Kinne Valicenti & Cook	10	Second Avenue Video	1
Flynn & Dagnoli	13	Spirited	25
Greylock Federal Credit Union	7	Suburban Internal Medicine	22
Hampton Inn & Suites	29	Yantovsky, Natalia	23

AUGUST 15, 8 PM



The Last Chapter of A.B. Yehoshua

The story of A.B. Yehoshua, perhaps the greatest Israeli writer living today, who is dealing with a terminal illness, widowhood, and loneliness, but does not for one moment give up his joi de vivre, faces death with unflinching honesty and still embraces a new book. A rare and fascinating look at one of Israel's most beloved writers. Known affectionately as Boolie, he has been called the Israeli Faulkner.

Documentary, 55 minutes, 2021, Israel, Hebrew with subtitles

Directed by Yair Qedar



This film is generously sponsored by the Consulate General of Israel to New England.

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival's 36 Years of Film

The 90 Minute War
A Bag of Marbles
A Classy Broad
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The Automat
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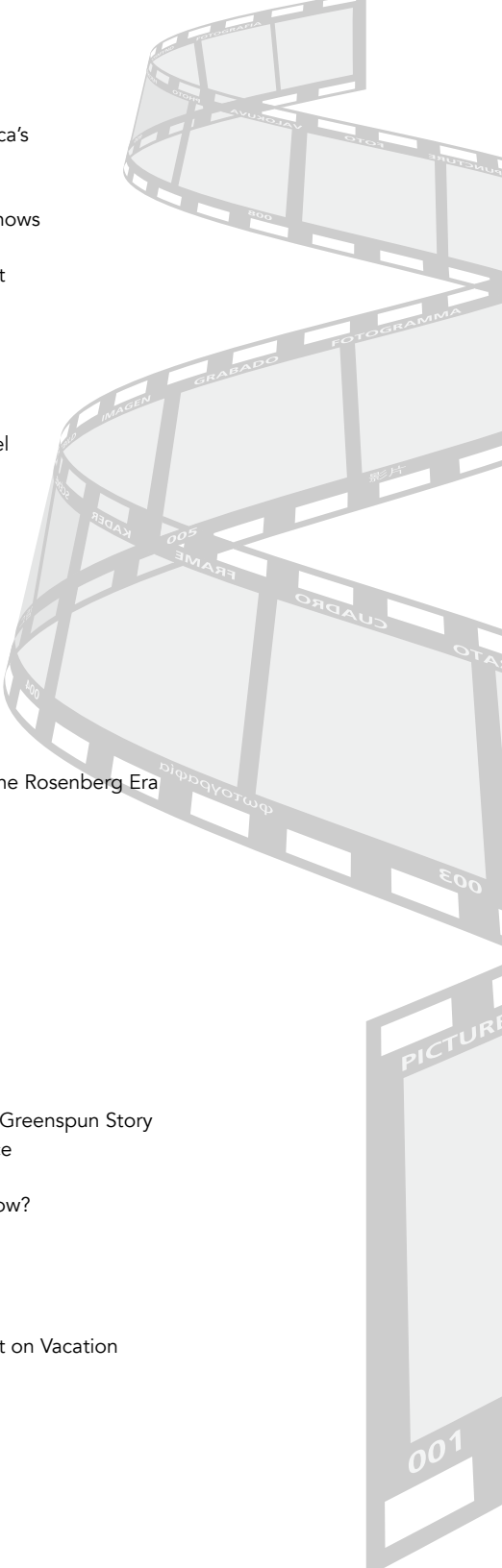
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7th Art Releasing
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Justin@cohenmedia.net

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Costanza-films
Asaf@Costanzafilms.com

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Lisa Hurwitz
A Slice of Pie Productions
lisa@automatmovie.com

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Oded Horowitz
Panorama Films
OHorowitz@GreenwichEntertainment.com

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Hadar Taylor Shechter
Go2Films
Hadar@go2films.com

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Estelle Grosso
Kino Lorber
egrosso@kinolorber.co

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neilf@menemshafilms.com

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Emilie Boulay
Salaud Morisset
festival@salaudmorisset.com

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Bianca Rondolino
biancarondolino@hotmail.it

The Inspection

Pauline Vasset
Gofilms01
diffusion@gogogofilms.fr

Becoming Nakuset

Felicity Justrabo
FelicityJustrabo@gmail.com

Petit Rat

Vera Wagman
Velocity + Direction, Inc.
petitratthefilm@gmail.com

Let It Be Morning

Justin DiPietro
Cohen Media
Justin@cohenmedia.net

Cinema Sabaya

Anais Gagliardi
Memento International
Festival@memento-films.com

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Hadar Taylor Shechter
Go2Films
hadar@go2films.com