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www.berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org





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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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.

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 <u>livestream</u>
- 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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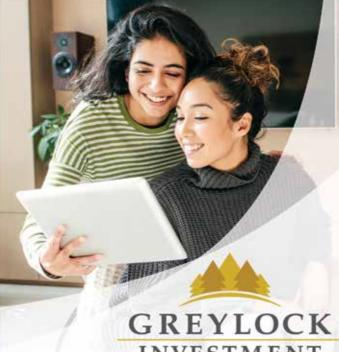
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JULY 11, 4 PM



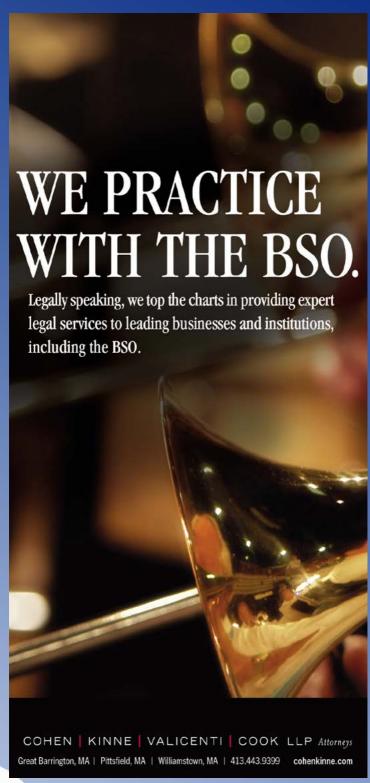


Song Searcher

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



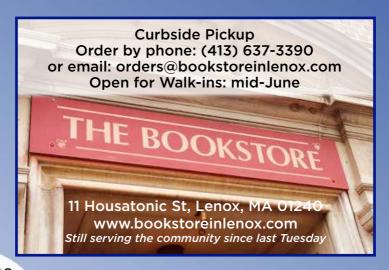


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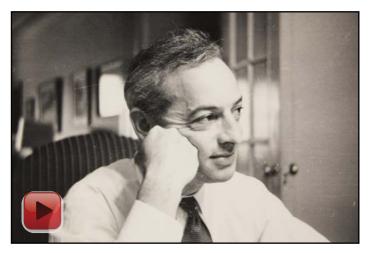
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JULY 18, 4 PM





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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JULY 18, 8 PM





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







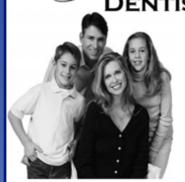


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JULY 25, 8 PM





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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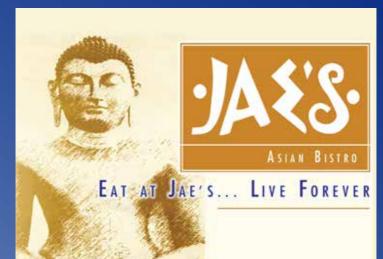






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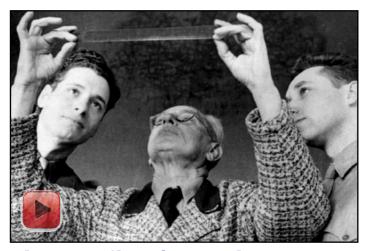
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AUGUST 1, 4 PM





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 Schulbergwas 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





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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 au thor-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 homemade 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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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



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Foreign Letters

Foxtrot

Freedom Runners

Free Men

Fugitive Pieces

Gefilte Fish Gilad Shalit Give It Back!

Gloomy Sunday Go For Zucker Go For Zucker

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God's Fiddler: Jascha Heifetz

Golda

Golden Age of Second Avenue

Good

Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good

Deeds: The Conductor Zubin Mehta

The Great Dictator

Green Fields

Half the Kingdom

Hannah Cohen's Holy Communion

Heir to an Execution

Here We Are Hidden Children

Hitmakers: The Teens Who

Stole Pop Music

Holy Silence

How to Reestablish a Vodka Empire

Human Remains Hunting Elephants

Igor and the Crane's Journey I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal

The Imported Bridegroom

In Our Own Hands
The Inspection

In the Image of God 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 Chapter of A.B. Yehoshua

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 It Be Morning

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 Light Ahead
The Little Nazi

The Little Traitor

Live and Become

The Lost Film of Nuremberg

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

Michael Tilson Thomas: Where Now Is

Miral

Mirele Efros Moments Moos

More Than I Deserve

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 Petit Rat

The Pickle Recipe
The Plot Against Harry

The Poet and the Con

Pops

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

Ronnie's Rose

Sabena Hijacking Sallah Shabbati

Sammy Davis Jr: I've Gotta Be Me Schocken, On the Edge of Consensus

The Secrets
September Songs
Shalom Aleichem:

Laughing in the Darkness Shalom of Safed – The Painter

Shalom Taiwan Shanghai Ghetto Shattered Dreams

Shelter The Shvitz Shylock

The Silence of the Sirens The Singing Blacksmith Sister Rose's Passion

Sixty- Six Slingshot

Sophie Scholl - The Final Days

Song Searcher

Soros

Stan Getz: A Musical Odyssey

Standing Silent Stealing the Fire The Summer of Aviya Sweet Lorraine

Sweet Mud Syrian Bride



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

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