Welcome to the 2020 Mayerson JCC Jewish & Israeli Film Festival. This year’s program offers a diverse selection of films that engage with current discussions that are important to our common humanity. Speakers and organizations will bring these topics off the screen, showing their relevancy and connection to home. We look forward to another year of building community and increasing understanding.

We are grateful for the continued support of our sponsors, partners, and attendees with and for whom this festival is created. This community that gathers together every winter sustains the Festival year after year. We look forward to seeing you around the city at the movies!

Please read on to learn about the Festival and all of the fantastic events and opportunities to come. Enjoy the 2020 Mayerson JCC Jewish & Israeli Film Festival!
THE UNORTHODOX
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23 • 7:30PM • MAYERSON JCC

2018 • Comic Drama • 92 minutes • Hebrew • Eliran Malka

SYNOPSIS
Yakov Cohen has no political experience, no money, and no connections. But when his daughter is expelled from school because of her ethnic origin, he decides to fight back. Yakov bands together with two friends to run in the city elections, starting the first ethnic political group in Jerusalem, Sfarad’s Guards. These political rookies improvise along the way, capturing voters’ hearts and forever changing the face of Israel. This exhilarating, moving, laugh-out-loud film based on a real story highlights the power one person can yield to create real social change.

OPENING NIGHT includes one complimentary drink per person and enjoyment of a reception.

SPECIAL FEATURE
Experience what it’s like to vote in Israel and engage in discussion with Amnon Maggid, Community Shaliach (Emissary) from Israel at the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, and Jackie Congedo, Director, & Justin Kirschner, Associate Director of JCRC.

DIRECTOR’S NOTE
This film takes place in the Jerusalem of the 80s. In those days, orthodox Sephardic Jews (immigrants from Arab countries) tried unsuccessfully to assimilate into a society of Ashkenazi Jews (immigrants from Russia and Europe) and institutions in their hold. They were always considered second-rate, even when they were the majority. It wasn’t even outright discrimination – just the basic assumption.

This film is a street movie; like its heroes, it’s dynamic and practically hyperactive, with a voice-over supplying us with a bridge into a world we can no longer see: a crowded, warm, Sephardic world, without the suit-wearing type characters you are used to seeing running in elections.

Yaakov’s operation is characteristic of the people he presented: informal, with love for their fellow man, a great sense of humor, and a whole lot of rage. The film raises questions about the real core of the political game, about religious coercion and about the DNA of Sephardic Jews and their inability to truly assimilate into Israeli “Western” society without losing.

ELIRAN MALKA
Director
A graduate from Ma’ale School in Jerusalem in 2010, his thesis film 71 Square Meters was screened at numerous festivals and won awards and honorable mentions. In 2011, Malka received a development grant from the Jerusalem Film Fund for the TV drama series “The Shababniks,” of which he is the creator. The series was produced by Dori Media Darset for HOT TV, and aired to great acclaim in 2017. The Unorthodox is his first feature film.

FILM EXTRAS

THANK YOU
to the generous supporters of the 2020 Mayerson JCC Jewish & Israeli Film Festival for bringing award-winning stories of Jewish life to Cincinnati.

In partnership with the We Need to Talk series, presented by Jewish Federation of Cincinnati and its Jewish Community Relations Council.
AMNON MAGGID
Speaker

Amnon Maggid has been in the field of education for more than 20 years, focusing on promoting Jewish culture and heritage in Israel. Maggid completed his Master’s in Jewish Education at The Schechter Institute in Jerusalem. He arrived in August 2018 for a three-year stay in Cincinnati. He is serving as an official representative of Israel, strengthening connections between Cincinnati and Israel through education and advocacy, working with Jewish and non-Jewish community, civic organizations, schools, universities, and religious institutions. His position is funded by the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati.

JACKIE CONGEDO
Speaker

Jackie Congedo is the Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council, which builds bridges between the Jewish and non-Jewish communities, advocates on behalf of the Jewish community and Israel, fights antisemitism, and promotes social justice. She has over a decade of strategic communications, public relations, current affairs, and award-winning journalism experience.

JUSTIN KIRSCHNER
Speaker

Justin Kirschner is the Associate Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Cincinnati. He’s a community connector who has a passion for using reflective conversation, civic engagement, and partnerships to co-create just and vibrant communities. Justin has been involved with various social justice, youth mentoring and leadership development endeavors, facilitating cross-cultural exchanges and teaching experiential education. He is a double graduate of Ohio University with a B.A. in Political Science, Minors in Business and Global Leadership and a Master’s in Public and Nonprofit Administration.

In our 80 year history, we have been on the front lines, building relationships to safeguard Jewish Cincinnati and pursue a more just community for all people. In the midst of an alarming rise in antisemitism, JCRC is meeting new challenges with new strategies and the same steadfast commitment to this work.

LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED
jewishcincinnati.org/jcrc

The Jewish Hospital
MERCYHEALTH

PROUDLY SPONSORS THE
MAYERSON JCC JEWISH & ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL
SYNOPSIS
World-renowned wildlife photographer Amos Nachoum has developed a unique approach that puts him face-to-face with his subjects. Fascinated by the most fearsome creatures on Earth, he is about to face his ultimate challenge: to swim, unprotected, with a polar bear. As Amos dives into a world being rapidly erased by a changing climate, he contemplates the series of unspoken events that drove him here, to the end of the world.

SPECIAL FEATURE
Short film screening of Layam by Assaf Machnes. Discussion led by Dan Marsh, Director of Education at Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

FILM EXTRAS
AMOS NACHOUM
Amos Nachoum’s photos and essays have appeared in hundreds of publications around the globe, including National Geographic, Time, Life, The New York Times, Condé Nast Traveler, Le Figaro, Terra Sauvage, Airone, Mondo Somerso, Der Spiegel, Unterwasser, and many more. His work has also been included in several books, including The Living Ocean, The World of Nature, and Oceans. He has appeared on National Geographic Explorer, Today, and Good Morning America and has been featured in People, Esquire, and Money magazines.

Amos’s photography has won Nikon, Communication Arts, and BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year awards.

DIRECTORS’ NOTE
Following our award-winning film Dolphin Boy, we have reunited to create another special film that explores the powerful relationship between man and nature, father and son, violence and peace. Picture of His Life was more than 10 years in the making. We were determined to bring this special story to life, in the most honest way possible. We were inspired not just by Amos’s ability to push the envelope and break the boundaries, to swim side-by-side with sharks, orcas and eventually polar bears, but mostly by his will to expose his most private and inner feelings to the camera and let us and the world see his vulnerabilities and pain. We believe that at the end of the day, like Leonard Cohen said: “There is a crack in everything, but that’s how the light gets in.”

DANI MENKIN
Writer/Director

Dani Menkin is a two-time Israeli Academy Award-winning filmmaker for 39 Pounds of Love and Is That You?. 39 Pounds of Love has been sold to HBO and was shortlisted for the Oscars. Menkin’s award-winning film Dolphin Boy (co-directed by Yonatan Nir) was sold to over 20 countries around the globe and was bought by Disney for an adaptation. Dani Menkin is a speaker and film juror at international festivals.

Shomrei Olam is the only Jewish organization in the Cincinnati region dedicated to protecting the environment.

Greening our temples and synagogues
Greening our children’s education
Greening our homes

shomrei-olam.org
festivals around the world, as well as a film professor at universities in the U.S.

YONATAN NIR
Writer/Director

Yonatan Nir’s multiple award-winning documentaries have been broadcast and screened in over 40 countries worldwide. *Dolphin Boy* (2011) premiered at Hot Docs, and remake rights were acquired by Disney. *My Hero Brother* (2016) is the winner of the Entre 2 marches at the Cannes Film Festival, winner of the DocEdge IFF, winner of the 2 main awards at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, and many more. His other films include *Cutting the Pain* and *The Essential Link - The Story of Wilfrid Israel.*

NANCY SPIELBERG
Executive Producer

Nancy Spielberg grew up immersed in filmmaking, working on her brother Steven’s early films as cast and crew. She attended Arizona State University and UCLA and, after moving to New York in 1978, studied film at Sarah Lawrence College and the New School. An accomplished businesswoman and philanthropist, she has turned her energy and talents to producing documentary and feature films. One of her priorities is to help preserve stories and make them into educational tools for the benefit of younger generations.

Ms. Spielberg served as consultant on the Oscar-winning documentary, *Chernobyl Heart,* and is executive producer of *Elusive Justice: The Search for Nazi War Criminals,* which aired nationally on PBS. She produced *Above and Beyond,* winner of the audience award at more than 20 film festivals. Spielberg is the executive producer of *Elusive Justice: The Search for Nazi War Criminals,* which aired nationally on PBS. She produced *Above and Beyond,* winner of the audience award at more than 20 film festivals.
executive producer of Sophie Sartain’s documentary, *Mimi and Dona*, which was broadcast nationally on PBS in 2015. She is executive producer of *Who Will Write Our History*, which tells the story of the secret buried archive of the Warsaw Ghetto, and of *On the Map* (2016), a documentary by filmmaker Dani Menkin, which has screened all over the world and received multiple festival awards.

**DAN MARSH**
*Speaker*

Dan received a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Louisville and a Master’s in Education in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Cincinnati. He began as a Trainer and Naturalist with the Zoo’s bird show and worked his way up through the department. Dan currently serves as the Director of Education and Volunteer Services at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

**SHORT FILM: LAYAM**

2018 · Short Drama · 17 minutes · Hebrew · Assaf Machnes

**SYNOPSIS**
Shai used to be a tough commander and Kedem used to be his tormented rookie. Things change.

**DIRECTOR’S NOTE**

LAYAM (La-Yam, ים) in Hebrew means “to the sea.” That’s what the film is about – a little piece of painful history drifted to...
the sea, an unpleasant river spilled into a rather stormy sea.

In Israel, where military service is compulsory for all, there’s life during the army and life outside the army. Each reality has completely different rules and sets of values. However, in such a tiny country like Israel, these realities meet quite often, creating encounters full of drama. Therefore, “What goes around, comes around” stories are very common in Israeli society.

My favorite element in storytelling is the absurd humor derived from disturbing pain that cannot be fully digested. I try to implement this tone in almost every story I tell. At the end of the day, I want the audience to decide whether this piece of humiliating history is over or not, and what each character can do about it.

ASSAF MACHNES
Director

Assaf Machnes is a writer-director based in Tel Aviv. He graduated from the Met Film School (London), specializing in cinematography. Assaf’s graduation short film was selected for more than 150 film festivals, won 7 awards, and was broadcast on ARTE, Mediaset Italy and more. In late 2014, Machnes received a development grant from the Israeli Film Fund for the writing of his debut feature, along with a special grant from the Polish Film Institute. Machnes was chosen to participate in the 2015 Berlinale Talent Campus and the 2016 Locarno Filmmakers Academy.

Seven Minutes premiered at the 2017 Berlinale and Machnes is now developing several projects both for the small and big screens, including a new web series for YNET and a TV drama for HOT Israel.

SYNOPSIS

Aldo lives a solitary life as a doctor in Budapest; Klara lives reluctantly with her great-aunt, holding on to hope that her father and mother will return. The two meet and soon find something in each other that has long been absent in their lives. This lyrical story of the power of love in the midst of conflict, loss, and trauma reveals the healing process of Holocaust survivors through the eyes of a young girl in post-World War II Hungary.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Discussion led by Jodi Elowitz, Director of Education & Engagement at Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center.

THOSE WHO REMAINED
THURSDAY, JANUARY 30 • 7:30PM • ESQUIRE THEATRE

The film is based on the novel by Zsuzsa F. Várkonyi, published in 2004.

DIRECTOR’S NOTE

For me, this film is, first of all, a hymn, an ode to a man who is totally wrecked but pulls himself together for one last time to save another half-destroyed soul. We’ve seen so many films about what happened before and during the Holocaust, but so few have shown us the fate of those who remained with us, those who came back.

BARNABÁS TÓTH
Writer/Director

Born in 1977 in Strasbourg, Barnabás Tóth studied at the Film and Television Academy of Budapest. He wrote and directed...
two feature films, Camembert Rose (Rózsaszín sajt) in 2009 and Those Who Remained (Akik maradtak) in 2019. His recent short film Chuchotage (Susotázs) from 2018 was selected to the shortlist by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for the 2019 Academy Awards. It won 23 awards at 62 different film festivals. His short film My Guide (Újratervezés) from 2013 has been viewed over 1.8 million times on Vimeo, making it one of the most successful short films ever made in Hungary. As a director, he directed episodes of "Született uiz~4" for HBO in 2007, "Calif" for RTL Klub in 2018 and "Karma" for Life network in 2011, and "A kir" for RTL Klub in 2018. JODI ELOWITZ
Speaker
Jodi has a wide range of experience in the field of Holocaust studies; her expertise is in artistic representation of the Holocaust in the visual arts with an emphasis on work done in the camps and ghettos. Jodi is an archivist at the Southern Holocaust Education and Research Center in Chicago and provides archival content for a large archival project and contributed articles about Holocaust representation in the visual arts with an emphasis on work done in the camps and ghettos. Jodi is a member of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission and the Director of Holocaust Education for the Jewish Community Relations Council of Tennessee. Jodi received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota and the Master of Liberal Studies degree from the University of Notre Dame. Jodi serves as the Director of Education and Engagement at The Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center.
DIRECTOR’S NOTE
Life-size wall hangings of my three favorite Jewish baseball players—Sandy Koufax pitching to Hank Greenberg and Moe Berg as catcher—adorn the curved wall of my home’s staircase. Businessman William Levine asked me after seeing The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg: “Do you want to make a film on an unusual major league baseball player?” I jumped at his generous offer to support a Berg biopic. The Spy

SYNOPSIS
Brilliant scholar-athlete Moe Berg was a Princeton and Columbia Law School graduate fluent in a half-dozen languages, and a beloved player and coach for five MLB teams during baseball’s Golden Age. Upon the acceleration of WWII, Berg began spying overseas. Rare historical footage and revealing interviews drawn from the worlds of history, sports, and spy craft reveal the unlikely story of this incredible Major League Baseball player-turned-spy.

SPECIAL FEATURE
Check out a selection of art and artifacts from the Skirball Museum’s collection related to Moe Berg’s life and times.

FILM EXTRAS
In partnership with Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Skirball Museum.

Upcoming HUC-JIR Events

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<td>Wednesday, January 15</td>
<td>“Bound and Unbound: In Search of the Jewish Poem” with Dr. Norman Finkelstein, 7PM at the Klau Library</td>
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<td>Sunday, March 1</td>
<td>The Chazzan’s Tale: Cantorial Concert, 4-5:30PM in the Scheuer Chapel</td>
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<td>Tuesday, March 10</td>
<td>Curator’s Lecture: Archie Rand’s Sixty Paintings from the Bible, 7PM at the Skirball Museum</td>
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<td>Thursday, March 12</td>
<td>Tsevat Memorial Lecture, 12:15PM in Mayerson Hall Honoring our late Professor Matitiahu Tsevat</td>
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<td>Thursday, April 2</td>
<td>Lunch and Learn: Archie Rand’s Sixty Paintings from the Bible, noon at the Skirball Museum</td>
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<td>Sunday, April 26</td>
<td>Spring Student Concert, Dapper, Flapper, and Tapper, 4-5:30PM in the Scheuer Chapel</td>
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<td>Monday, May 4</td>
<td>Collecting Stamps from Israel with Dr. David Alden, 7-8:30PM at the Klau Library</td>
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Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
3101 Clifton Avenue | RSVP: jashton@huc.edu, 513-487-3098
Behind Home Plate fits perfectly into my goal to make historical documentaries about less-well-known Jewish heroes and my career focus on exploring courageous tales about those who fought the Nazis.

AVIVA KEMPNER
Director/Producer/Writer

Aviva Kempner’s mission is to make films that investigate non-stereotypical images of Jews in history and celebrate the untold stories of Jewish heroes. Based in Washington, D.C., Kempner is a director, writer, and producer whose resume includes critically acclaimed and award-winning documentaries, including Rosenwald, Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg, and Peabody winner The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg. She also produced another WWII documentary, Partisans of Vilna.

The child of U.S. Army officer Harold Kempner and Polish Holocaust survivor Helen Ciesla, Kempner was born in post-World War II Berlin, Germany. Her family history inspired her to make films about less-known Jewish heroes: television pioneer Gertrude Berg, Hall of Fame baseball superstar Hank Greenberg, philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, and the Jewish resistance to the Nazis. Her films have received top honors from The National Society of Film Critics, the New York Film Critics Circle, the Broadcast Film Critics Association, and CINE Golden Eagle and Peabody Awards.

Kempner is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. She writes film criticism and feature articles for numerous publications.
York University. Ryan’s award-winning first short film, *Two Hundred Percent*, about one young man’s journey to Israel to reunite with his forgotten father 15 years after a tragic accident, screened at film festivals in 2016. His next film, titled *A School Grows in Watts*, tells the story of a unique, overachieving school, and those using education to improve the vibrant, often distraught communities of South Los Angeles. *The Passengers* is his feature directorial debut.

MEGAN IVERSON
Speaker
Megan Iverson studied abroad in Ghana while studying History at Xavier University and learned first-hand that being new in a country can be an isolating experience. She brings this to her work in helping newly resettled families find a home in the Cincinnati area. Having previously worked in a highly diverse Cincinnati Public Schools elementary school created a lasting impression that schools are the hub of the American cultural experience for new families in the U.S. She works with school staff, partners, and volunteer mentors to create welcoming environments across the city.

Iverson is the Program Director at RefugeeConnect. RefugeeConnect helps refugees and asylees navigate often unfamiliar systems, new cultural norms, and language barriers. RefugeeConnect promotes coordinated services so that this specific population of new Americans, who may be unaware of the patchwork of crucial resources already in place, reach their full potential as individuals, families, and civic and community leaders.

**ORDER OF FILMS**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6 • 7:30PM • ESQUIRE THEATRE**

**I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU**

**MY PLAYGROUND**

**HOW TO SWIM**

**GEFILTE**

**BENEATH THE INK**

An evening of short films, both documentary and narrative, that will make you think, laugh, and possibly even shed a tear. From moving stories of relationships past and present, to personal growth and changes of heart, to the absurdities of life, these films showcase the best of short-form storytelling.

**SPECIAL FEATURE**

Panel discussion featuring community member, filmmaker, and Jerusalem Film Workshop participant Seth Friedman, and Mayerson JCC Jewish & Israeli Film Festival committee members.

**In partnership with Cincinnati Hillel.**
SHORT FILM: I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU

2017 ∙ Documentary Short ∙ 13 minutes
French ∙ Matan Rochlitz

SYNOPSIS

On April 4, 1943, a young woman finds herself on a train. A decision she makes that day saves her life, but leaves her with a huge burden on her conscience. Twenty years later she meets a stranger with a message for her.

DIRECTOR’S NOTE

My grandmother once told me a story about the woman who lived next door to her in Tel Aviv. It was a tale of love, loss, guilt and redemption, with a truly extraordinary epilogue. I never forgot it.

The Holocaust looms impossibly large in my family’s shared narrative. It is, of course, also one of the defining chapters of humanity’s recent history. The mind still struggles to make sense of What Happened. But one commandment, one kernel of a logical response, seems to be expressed by all who have lived through the horror: Never forget.

We are the last generation who will be able to meet Holocaust survivors in person, and I consider this a tremendous responsibility.

MATAN ROCHLITZ
Director

Matan is an Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker.

http://www.qbcincy.com

513.271.5400

In the Heart of Mariemont
6904 Wooster Pike
Cincinnati, Ohio 45227

hillelcincinnati.org/campussuperstar
SHORT FILM: MY PLAYGROUND
2019 ∙ Documentary Short ∙ 7 minutes ∙ Hebrew

SYNOPSIS
Dr. Saar Hashavaya is the head of the pediatric emergency room at Hadassah Hospital in Ein Kerem, Israel. During his regular routines, his inner child interacts with his patients.

Created during the 2019 Jerusalem Film Workshop, a six-week summer program in Israel designed for talented young filmmakers from around the world.

DIRECTOR: Obett Motaung (South Africa)
EDITOR: Seth Friedman (USA)
CINEMATOGRAPHER: Mica Bernhard (USA)
PRODUCER: Amanda Halfen (Brazil)

SETH FRIEDMAN
Editor
Seth Friedman is an award-winning student filmmaker from Cincinnati. His work includes Red Ink (an original feature film about a screenwriter trying to get his name off of the Hollywood blacklist), All That You Love Will Be Carried Away (a short film based on the short story by Stephen King, for which he was a featured speaker at the Rochester Halloween Film Festival at the George Eastman Museum). Seth was one of 24 filmmakers selected from around the world to participate in the Jerusalem Film Workshop.

SHORT FILM: HOW TO SWIM
2018 ∙ Narrative Short ∙ 15 minutes ∙ Hebrew ∙ Noa Gusakov

SYNOPSIS
In the last few days of her pregnancy, a terrified mother-to-be kidnaps a comforting partner-in-crime for one afternoon. How else is a person supposed to get some honest advice?

NOA GUSAKOV
Writer/Director

How To Swim had its international premiere at the 2018 Palm Springs ShortFest and went on to be selected at other festivals, including Encounters, Hamptons, and Aspen. It was awarded Best Narrative Short in Annapolis, ahead of its online premiere as a Vimeo Staff Pick. Noa works as a screenwriter and editor for TV productions in Israel.

NOA GUSAKOV
Writer/Director

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SHORT FILM: GEFILTE
2018 ∙ Documentary Short ∙ 11 minutes ∙ English ∙ Rachel Fleit

SYNOPSIS
Each year, the Hermelin family of Detroit comes together to celebrate the Passover holiday—honoring the liberation of the Jews from slavery in ancient Egypt—by eating Gefilte fish.

DIRECTOR’S NOTE
When I learned about the Hermelin family’s remarkable gefilte fish tradition, I immediately knew there was a film there. Sloane Klevin, my editor and trusted creative collaborator agreed, so I flew to Detroit, fancy lenses in tow, and we set out to make a beautiful film about the single most unattractive fish ball. My favorite thing to do as a filmmaker is to find the beauty in what most find to be ugly. I love a good metaphor and I am fascinated by the phenomenon of sense memory — as Julie Hermelin describes perfectly in the film, “that’s innocence, childhood, joy and family all wrapped up in the smell of fish.” As we made the film, the gefilte fish, of course, became a lightning rod, into which we project all of our feelings about family, identity, traditions, struggle, joy, loss, and as always, love. Gefilte. It’s not about the fish.

RACHEL FLEIT
Director

Rachel Fleit is a writer & director who lives in Brooklyn, NY. Her short documentary films, Barbara & Stanley: A Modern Romance and Gefilte, can be seen on NOWNESS. Gefilte is currently slated to play at almost every single Jewish Film Festival in the US and UK. Fleit is a 2019 grant recipient from the New York Foundation for the Arts, Women’s Fund for Film, TV, & Theatre for her upcoming
Beneath the Ink

As society’s belief systems are seemingly changing, or even reverting in time, one Ohio artist is challenging his community by saying, “bring me your mistakes.” Inspired by recent events, Billy Joe White and his Red Rose Tattoo Studio are promoting one simple concept: Erase the hate. Beneath the Ink is a timely look at hate and racism in the western foothills of this Appalachian region that reveals heartfelt stories of change and redemption.

CY DODSON
Director/Cinematographer/Editor

Dodson’s past two films, My Last Breath and The Ragman - A Hobo’s Story Untold garnered a total of Seven Film Festival Awards and a Midwest Regional Emmy for Best Documentary.

Beneath the Ink was shot in Dodson’s hometown of Zanesville, Ohio. Although he was raised by loving and non-racist parents, it wasn’t uncommon to hear various racial slurs in his community. At a young age, Dodson knew the adults that he did, or did not, want to become. Beneath The Ink is now an Emmy-nominated and Academy-qualified film. Dodson sends special thanks to everyone at Red Rose Tattoo, especially Billy White, who made this film possible. Dodson currently resides in Minnesota, where he is the owner/operator of production company Triumph Pictures, LLC, specializing in documentary-style marketing and branding content.
SYNOPSIS

Tami and Beno, both widowed, confront their losses in very different ways. Optimistic Tami still talks to her husband, years after his death; Beno puts up a tough front, but suffers internally from the loss of his wife. An encounter between two people with such different lifestyles and personalities has to result in a nightmare...but love has its own rules.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 • 3PM • KENWOOD THEATRE

LOVE IN SUSPENDERS

2019 • Romantic Comedy • 102 minutes • Hebrew • Jorge Weller

SYNOPSIS

Tami and Beno, both widowed, confront their losses in very different ways. Optimistic Tami still talks to her husband, years after his death; Beno puts up a tough front, but suffers internally from the loss of his wife. An encounter between two people with such different lifestyles and personalities has to result in a nightmare...but love has its own rules.

FILM EXTRAS

JORGE WELLER

Director

Jorge (Johanan) Weller holds academic degrees from both the National Film Institute in Buenos Aires, Argentina (1978) and Tel Aviv University’s School of Film & Television (1982). Over his career he has created, directed, and produced dozens of TV series, feature films, documentaries and instruction films, some going on to win international awards.

He made his first film in Super 8 at the age of 13 years old, and his passion for filmmaking has only grown with every passing year. He believes as Charlie Chaplin once said, that the secret of success, in both movies and life, is enthusiasm.

In partnership with Cedar Village Care & Community and AgeWell Cincinnati.

AgeWell Cincinnati is a central solution that links older adults, their family members, friends, and caregivers to community resources for aging well in Jewish Cincinnati.

Contact us:
513-766-3333 | agewellcincy.org
Senior Living that never goes out of style.

Cedar Village provides an inspirational lifestyle designed to cater to the specialized needs and wants of our residents. Throughout our campus, you’ll find a difference in philosophy that embraces the balance between home and care — we know family comes first and we live by that. Touching every aspect of life at our community, we work together with loved ones to create a plan for enriching each day and maximizing independence as much as possible.

Simply put, life is better at Cedar Village.

A True Sense of Community

SYNOPSIS
Content Warning: Drug references
The highly anticipated follow-up to On the Map, this inspiring film tells the story of Aulcie Perry, the last to be cut from the NY Knicks in 1976 who soon found himself playing for Israel. He became a basketball legend, playing for Maccabi Tel Aviv. This remarkable athlete captured the spirit of a nation, became victorious against all odds, and put Israel on the map.

Attendees will have the opportunity to win Club Level tickets to the University of Cincinnati Men’s Basketball game on February 19, courtesy of Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati.

FILM EXTRAS

DANI MENKIN
Writer/Director/Producer
Dani Menkin is a two-time Israeli Academy Award-winning filmmaker for 39 Pounds of Love and Is That You? 39 Pounds of Love has been sold to HBO and was shortlisted for the Oscars. Menkin’s award-winning film Dolphin Boy (co-directed by Yonatan Nir) was sold to over 20 countries around the globe and was bought by Disney for an adaptation. Dani Menkin is a speaker and film juror at international festivals around the world, as well as a film professor at universities in the U.S.
SYNOPSIS
Content Warning: Nudity and sexual content
A young woman from Mexico City finds herself torn between her Syrian-Jewish family and forbidden love in this intimate drama. She is forced to negotiate the labyrinth of familial pressure, religious precedent, and her own burgeoning sentiment as she discovers the world outside the bubble of her community and struggles to find the right path on this journey of self-discovery and female empowerment.

SPECIAL FEATURE
Short film screening of The Outer Circle by Adam Baroukh. Discussion led by Valerie Weinstein, Associate Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Cincinnati.

LEONA
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 • 7:30PM
CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM, FATH AUDITORIUM

2018 ∙ Drama ∙ 95 minutes ∙ Spanish ∙ Isaac Cherem

SYNOPSIS
Content Warning: Nudity and sexual content
A young woman from Mexico City finds herself torn between her Syrian-Jewish family and forbidden love in this intimate drama. She is forced to negotiate the labyrinth of familial pressure, religious precedent, and her own burgeoning sentiment as she discovers the world outside the bubble of her community and struggles to find the right path on this journey of self-discovery and female empowerment.

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FILM EXTRAS

EMILY BAUMAN
Introduction
Emily Bauman is Curatorial Assistant for Photography and Film Programmer for Moving Images at the Cincinnati Art Museum (CAM). She has curated photography special features including The Poetry of Place: William Clift, Linda Connor, and Michael Kenna and Personas: Color Portraits, 1979–1985, and she assisted in research and implementation for CAM’s 30 Americans and Ragnar Kjartansson: The Visitors and Scenes from Western Culture. In her role as Moving Images film programmer, she collaborates with CAM curators as well as film-centered organizations across Cincinnati to create points of connection to artworks on view in the museum through the democratic medium of film.
DIRECTOR'S NOTE
Through a portrait of the Jewish community in Mexico City, I try to establish a bridge of communication between generations that have different points of view with respect to the same subject. The story of Leona is a personal reflection on my process of self-knowledge and maturity.

ISAAC CHEREM
Director
Isaac Cherem graduated from Los Angeles Film School in 2011. In 2015, he founded Fosforescente, a production company focused solely on Mexican cinema. In 2016, he produced Two Times You. In 2018, he shot his directorial debut, Leona, and he is currently working on the production of the film King of the Party, directed by Salomon Askenazi.

VALERIE WEINSTEIN
Discussion Facilitator
Valerie Weinstein is Associate Professor in the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and affiliate faculty in German Studies, Judaic Studies, and Film and Media Studies at the University of Cincinnati. She is the author of Antisemitism in Film Comedy in Nazi Germany (Indiana University Press, 2019), co-editor, with Barbara Hales and Mihaela Petrescu, of Continuity and Crisis in German Cinema 1928-1936 (Camden House, 2016) and co-editor, with Barbara Hales, of forthcoming volume Rethinking Jewishness in Weimar Cinema (Berghahn Books, 2020). Weinstein has authored articles and book chapters on topics including gender, sexuality, and Jewishness in German film between the two world wars.

In Loving Memory of Lucille “Twink” Carothers (1924 - 2018) ...a longtime supporter of the JCC Jewish & Israeli Film Festival

moving images
Film Series
Celebrate the art of cinema
Free and open to the public, select Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Ana de día, directed by Andrea Juarrieta, 2018
March 5, 2020
Losing Ground, directed by Kathleen Collins, 1982
April 2, 2020

General operating support generously provided by:

MAYERSON JCC JEWISH & ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL 2020
Midway through a gruelling Orthodox conversion, Daniel and his fiancée Katherine are eager to gain the blessing of his intimidatingly large and loud Iraqi Jewish family. At their annual Rosh Hashanah feast, Katherine’s natural elegance and ‘English English’ heritage immediately endears her to them, but it soon becomes apparent that beneath the warm and welcoming atmosphere, some are not ready as others to accept her.

ADAM BAROUKH
Director
Adam Baroukh spent his formative years working as a photographer and self-shooting short documentaries. In 2011, Adam co-founded Superplex Pictures as a platform from which to write, produce and direct his own work. Through Superplex he has directed hundreds of commercial films for some of the world’s biggest brands and a number of award-winning short dramas.

Adam works both in visual art and cinematic traditions. In 2015, he was funded by the British Arts Council to create the performance film The Silent Wild at the Bronte Parsonage, and The Brush and The Sword - an audio-visual installation for the Shangri-La at the Shard. The same year, he produced his first written film Just Desserts, which played at numerous BAFTA- and Oscar-qualifying festivals internationally, was featured at the 2015 BFI London Film Festival, and won the Discovery Award at London Comedy Festival and Best Comedy at Isle of Man Film Festival.

Thank you to the Mayerson JCC and the Film Festival Committee for another great film festival!

Law Office of Paul H. Spitz LLC
“We help you start and run your business”
FAMILY IN TRANSITION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17 • 7:30PM • ESQUIRE THEATRE

2018 • Documentary • 70 minutes • Hebrew • Ofir Trainin

SYNOPSIS
The lives of a family in small-town Israel change completely after their father announces that he’s transitioning to become a woman. But one journey of identity leads to another. This family story changes what we thought we knew about gender, parity, and parenthood. But most of all, it is a story about a family that redefines the limits of recognition, acceptance, and love of those closest to us.

SPECIAL FEATURE
Discussion led by Jessica Cicchinelli, Founder of Living With Change.

FILM EXTRAS
ABOUT THE FILM PARTICIPANTS
AMIT TZUK, 44 YEAR-OLD WOMAN, TRANSSEXUAL
At the age of 42, I fulfilled my dream, got out of my costume and became a full-time wife and mother. As long as I can remember, I lived in disguise, living my masculinity through my son and my femininity through my wife Gili, living in a masquerade ball, trying to be as masculine as possible, hiding, never being exposed.

The film Family in Transition is a delicate human document, a documentation of the most difficult process a person can
experience, being reborn in the middle of life into a brave family that overcomes any challenge and difficulty. I managed to get through this process thanks to my family – my flock, who stood by me all the way, helping me over and over again, giving me the strength to continue, to be born again, stronger, happier, fulfilled. My family who allowed me to become better for me, for them.

During the process I realized that I must give my amazing community the opportunity to live a better life in Israel. A life of equality. I began to act on the national and local level, giving lectures throughout the country and turning thousands of people into colorful ambassadors of the community in the world.

GALIT TZUK, 43 YEARS OLD, MOTHER TO YUVAL, YARDAN, AGAM, AND PELEG

I chose to be filmed in the documentary Family in Transition to promote awareness, inclusion, and acceptance of members of the gay community in society.

From this I chose to publish the autobiographical travel diaries, Love in Trance and Now is My Turn, that I wrote following my husband, Amit’s decision to become a transsexual woman. For the children of the transgender community in Israel, I published the book I Only Want to Be Me.

I would like to thank the director of the film Family in Transition, Ophir Trainin, for the most sensitive documentary, and that you have allowed us to be swept into your world and you equally swept into our world.

DIRECTOR’S NOTE

The main goal of Family in Transition is to expose a unique family that can teach us all how to accept the differences in one another. The Tsuk family breaks social conventions and helps change what we thought we knew about gender, parity, parenthood, and transgender issues. Most of all, this close-knit family re-expands the limits of recognition, acceptance, and the love of those closest to us. While making the documentary, I was most surprised by the story arc and transformation of Galit, the wife and matriarch of the family. Galit and Amit were married at a very young age, and she was immediately drawn into becoming a wife, mother and caregiver. She seemingly lost much of herself in the process. It was only following Amit’s transition that she gradually began to question who she really wanted to be. During filming it became apparent that, despite a wave of mainstream attention into the acceptance of the transgender community, many traditional, more conservative towns, like the one where the Tsuk family lives, are still less tolerant. By embracing the different, I hope we can work towards creating a world where transgender people can live a normal life and be accepted by their communities.

OFIR TRAININ
Director/Producer

Ophir Trainin is an award-winning director and scriptwriter. His films include My Shabbat (2015) produced by Prometheus and supported by Yes Docu, Appolonia (2015) produced by Micha Shagrir and supported by Channel 1 which premiered at the Haifa International Film Festival, Wandering Eyes

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Schimberg Financial Group is proud to be a supporter of the Mayerson JCC and Jewish and Israeli Film Festival!
(2010) supported by Keshet TV-Channel 2 and The New Israeli Foundation for Cinema & Television which won Best Film Award at Docaviv Festival 2010 and was nominated for the Israeli Academy Awards 2010.

JESSICA CICCHINELLI
Speaker

Living With Change (LWC) supports a commitment to fostering collaborative relationships on a local, national, and global scale with particular respect to sexual/romantic/emotional attraction, and gender identities. LWC is an inclusive non-profit that provides education, support, resources, and advocacy for the LGBTQ+ and Transgender community in the Greater Cincinnati area and beyond. LWC facilitates LGBTQ+ and Transgender visibility by promoting and enhancing awareness, understanding, and acceptance through collaborative relationships, LGBTQ+ specific trainings, and intersectional educational/programmatic initiatives that center around the holistic wellness of our community.

Founders Chris and Jessica Cicchinelli realized how necessary it was to start Living With Change after experiencing first-hand the uncertainty and adversity many parents of transgender children face. While seeking care and treatment for oldest daughter LC, the couple recognized many families didn’t have that same luxury—going without puberty-delaying treatments and even being placed on waitlists hundreds of patients long. Chris and Jessica hope the foundation will act as a stop gap for families with transgender children in need of relevant medical care, transgender programs, and more.

Thank you to the JCC Jewish & Israeli Film Festival Committee and the JCC Staff for all you do producing this wonderful Film Festival!

– Suzette & Michael Fisher

When you or someone you know has a real estate need please call me. You can count on my knowledge and experience to get results without the dramatics or suspense.

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I am proud to support the JCC’s Jewish & Israeli Film Festival. Mazel Tov!

MAYERSON JCC JEWISH & ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL 2020
WORKING WOMAN
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 • 7:30PM • MARIEMONT THEATRE

2018 • Drama • 94 minutes • Hebrew • Michal Aviad

SYNOPSIS
Trigger Warning: Sexual harassment & assault
Ambitious and capable thirty-something Orna takes to her new job in the high-end real estate business with zeal and thrives, despite the challenges facing her at home. As she proves her worth and her professional fortunes rise, so do unwanted advances from her older, high-powered boss. This nuanced portrayal of gray work-place scenarios offers thought-provoking insight during the era of #MeToo.

SPECIAL FEATURE
Discussion led by Ronna Greff Schneider, who is a Professor of Law at the University of Cincinnati College of Law and President of the Jewish Community Relations Council.

DIRECTOR’S NOTE
I started working on Working Woman in 2012. Like other women around me, I heard stories of sexual harassment on a daily basis, especially in the workplace. I was fascinated by the change I was witnessing from the generation before me in which society was blind to the phenomena, to my generation and the younger generations who seek a deep change in the ways women and men relate sexually to each other.

My first fiction film, Invisible (2011), is directly about the trauma of rape. But in Working Woman, I wanted to make a film on the more grey areas of sexual abuse. I collected stories from my life, my friends, the internet and court cases. While each incident differs in its details, they all see usage of authority and power to coerce women into sexual relations.

Working Woman is about the ways in which the powerful at work can exploit and abuse their subordinates.
and endanger their livelihood. More often than not, it is the woman who pays the economic, reputational, social, psychological and familial price.

I tried in the film to understand the harsh consequences of sexual harassment on the victim and her entire context: her relationships with her husband and her children, and her ability to find work, set against the blindness of the abuser and the social environment. In the middle of shooting the film, the #MeToo movement came into being. I knew then that the film will continue to serve as a reminder that sexual harassment at work is not unique to famous people.

MICHAL AVIAD
Co-Writer/Director
An acclaimed and award-winning documentary and narrative filmmaker, Michal Aviad was born in Jerusalem, Israel. She studied literature and philosophy at Tel Aviv University, and began making films in San Francisco in the 1980s. Since returning to Israel in 1991, she has continued to write, direct and produce films. Aviad is a senior faculty member at Tel Aviv University’s Tisch School of Cinema. Her critically acclaimed films include Acting Our Age (1987), Jenny and Jenny (1997), Invisible (2011), and Dimona Twist (2016).

After many award-winning documentary films, Michal Aviad’s first fiction Invisible was released theatrically in Israel and France, and was the MOMA choice for a limited release in NYC. Working Woman is her second fiction film.

SYNOPSIS
In the 1950s, a group of free-spirited, mostly Jewish dancers from New York City fell in love with a sultry dance from Cuba called the mambo, earning them a nickname: the mamboniks. Set in New York, Miami Beach, the Catskills and Havana, this little-known story reveals the power of music and dance to bring people together, bridging cultures and communities.

SPECIAL FEATURE
Community introductory mambo class led by Salsannati.
Pre-event reception and tickets available for Create Your Jewish Legacy and Jewish Federation Silver Circle donors. Please contact Reagan Kuhn, 513.985.1526, for information and to RSVP.

THE MAMBONIKS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 • 3PM • MAYERSON JCC

2019 • Documentary • 90 minutes • English, Spanish • Lex Gillespie

FILM EXTRAS

DIRECTOR’S NOTE
In an interview with the Edlavitch DCJCC, director Lex Gillespie noted that he was inspired to make the film after his Jewish wife mentioned that her grandmother had been an aspiring mambo dancer. “I simply thought there was a story there: why did a nice Jewish grandmother from New Haven, Connecticut want to learn the cha-cha-cha?” The challenge of the film

RONNA GREFF SCHNEIDER
Speaker
Professor Schneider is an expert in constitutional law, with a focus on the First Amendment and education law. She is a frequent speaker and commentator on issues involving constitutional law, education law, and educational policy and is the author of the two-volume legal treatise, Education Law: First Amendment, Due Process and Discrimination Litigation (Thomson Reuters), and its annual supplements (available in print and online in Westlaw). Professor Schneider is also the co-editor of Education Law Stories (Foundation Press). She has published law review articles and a book chapter on topics that include sexual harassment, hate speech, and religion and schools.

Professor Schneider received her BA from the University of Michigan and her JD from Boston College. She is an elected member of the American Law Institute. She is also an affiliated faculty member of the University of Cincinnati’s Department of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Professor Schneider has been actively involved in the Association of American Law Schools Section on Law and Education, having served as its Chairperson and as a member of its Executive Committee.

In partnership with Jewish Federation of Cincinnati – Silver Circle Society and Create Your Jewish Legacy.
was found in trying to knit together the different storylines and characters into a seamless whole, but the sheer joy captured in the film made it a pleasure to spend time on. On the surface, the film is about the mambo, the dance craze that came from Cuba in the 1950s. It also sheds light on the political relationship between the U.S. and Cuba at that time. But at its heart it’s about celebrating cultural diversity and building bridges between different cultures.

LEX GILLESPIE
Director

Lex Gillespie is a three-time Peabody Award winner and the shared winner of a silver baton from the duPont-Columbia Journalism Awards at New York’s Columbia School of Journalism. For the past 25 years, he’s produced documentaries on music, history, culture, and the arts. His credits include Let the Good Times Roll, a 26-hour history of African-American music from the blues to Motown; Songs in the Wind, the story of the indigenous music of the Andes Mountains; and Seoul House, about a hip-hop opera set in a Korean mom-and-pop corner store in Washington, DC.
SYNOPSIS
More than 70 years ago, Aron, Eazek, and Claudine lost their entire families during the Holocaust before coming to the U.S. and settling in New York City. Now they are sharing their stories with high school students in a program led by a drama therapist. The result is a story that imparts insights into the effect of the past on multiple generations of Jews, while also illustrating the power of transmitting experience from one generation to the next.

SPECIAL FEATURE
The Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center, in partnership with Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, have been working with young people to help them develop skills including creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, communication and collaboration. Readings from this collaboration will be performed after the screening.

In partnership with Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center.
**DIRECTOR’S NOTE**

I was drawn into the orbit of *Witness Theater* quite accidentally in 2015, when my wife heard that their friend Celia Ores was participating in a unique workshop of Holocaust survivors and high school students at the Heschel School in Manhattan, called *Witness Theater*. We spoke to Celia about the experience and then, coincidentally, an acquaintance told Rudavsky that she was a supporter of *Witness Theater* and would be excited to try to make a film about the workshop experience along with the Selfhelp community.

What makes *Witness Theater* unique is both the close relationships that formed between the survivors and the students (many of which continue to this day), and the detailed, unique stories the survivors told. *Witness Theater* sheds light on the absolutely essential way that storytelling and listening keep history alive, and teach kids to be witnesses and storytellers themselves. This process is essential to all of us at a time when the last generation is passing on. The film also speaks to the connection between Holocaust survivors and all communities and individuals who have experienced trauma. I hope that we can honor the experiences of people whose lives are very different than our own, so that their stories are not lost.

**OREN RUDAVSKY**

Director/Producer

Oren Rudavsky is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and several National Endowment for the Humanities and National Endowment for the Arts grants. Rudavsky produced the NEH-funded American Masters documentary *Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People*, broadcast in April 2019. The film was chosen to premiere at the Mill Valley Film Festival and at the Hot Springs Documentary Festival. His films *Colliding Dreams*, co-directed with Joseph Dorman, and *The Ruins of Lifta*, co-directed with Menachem Daum, were released theatrically in 2016. *Colliding Dreams* was broadcast on PBS in May 2018.

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Selfhelp Community Services is a nonprofit organization in New York City that serves Holocaust survivors as they age in their homes and communities, with independence and dignity. Selfhelp operates the oldest and largest program serving Holocaust survivors in North America, caring for over 4,500 individuals.

*FIDDLER: A MIRACLE OF MIRACLES*  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27 • 7:30PM • 20TH CENTURY THEATER**

2019 • Documentary • 92 minutes • English • Max Lewkowicz

**SYNOPSIS**

The origin story behind one of Broadway’s most beloved musicals, *Fiddler on the Roof*, has its creative roots in early 1960s New York, when “tradition” was on the wane as gender roles, sexuality, race relations and religion were evolving. The tremendous success and worldwide impact of *Fiddler* and its subsequent film adaptation is revealed in interviews with industry stars and international productions, detailing how audiences worldwide see themselves in the residents of Anatevka.

**SPECIAL FEATURE**

Introduction about *Fiddler on the Roof* led by Rabbi Kenneth Kanter, historian in the field of the Jewish contribution to American popular culture. Community sing with music featured in *Fiddler* led by Rabbi Kanter, Cantor Alane Katzew, and Matthew Umphreys, piano.

Valet parking available.
DIRECTOR’S NOTE

Fiddler is the first in-depth documentary film that chronicles the life and themes of this iconic offering of American culture. The goal of our documentary is to understand why the story of Tevye is reborn again and again as beloved entertainment and a cultural touchstone the world over.

Opening in 1964, Fiddler on the Roof held the record for the longest-running musical for almost 10 years, won nine Tony Awards, and spawned five Broadway revivals. The show is still performed more than any other show, from middle schools in inner cities to high schools in rural America, around the world from grand state theaters in Japan and Vienna to Johannesburg and Mexico City. And yet, Fiddler on The Roof seems an unlikely work to have captured the imagination of so many people. It was the first major musical on the American stage to feature not one American character, and it tells of the trials and tribulations of a venerated Jewish milkman named Tevye, trying to eke out a living in a small Jewish shtetl in the Pale of Settlement in Czarist Russia.

The show appeared on the cultural landscape at a time when America was still mourning for JFK, when the Vietnam War was beginning to haunt the American psyche, and America and the rest of the world were on the verge of a massive counter-cultural revolution. Amidst all of this change, a new type of music – rock and roll – was gathering steam. And yet Fiddler on the Roof opened to massive audiences, with tickets as hard to obtain as Hamilton tickets are today. And it has remained beloved and relevant to this day.

MAX LEWKOWICZ

Writer/Producer/Director
Max Lewkowicz, founder and owner of Dog Green Productions, has written, directed, and produced hundreds of productions for network and public television, museums, and multinational organizations in a career that has spanned over 25 years. Lewkowicz’s documentary works include award-winning films about the mercury pollution afflicting Native American tribes in Northern Canada, the Dance Theater of Harlem, the generational cycles of poverty in America’s inner cities, Nelson Mandela’s struggle against Apartheid in South Africa, as well as Across the Bridge, a documentary about the American Military Doctrine in Germany during the Cold War and Ours to Fight For, which tells the stories of American GIs in World War II.

In addition, Lewkowicz has written, produced and directed museum exhibition films and interactive presentations domestically and internationally. His works include the media for the core exhibits of Normandy American Cemetery Visitor Center and the Pointe du Hoc Visitor Center, The Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York, The South Africa Heritage Museum in Cape Town, and the Montreal Memorial Holocaust Center. Lewkowicz’s writing and directorial expertise has won critical acclaim and numerous awards, including the Silver Screen Award at the U.S. International Film and Video Festival, the grand prize of The Chicago International Film Festival, and the 2003 Award of Excellence from the National Association of Museum Exhibitions. His film Morgenthau, shown on public television, won an Emmy in 2015. Lewkowicz’s
CANTOR
ALANE KATZEW
Musical Lead
Cantor Alane S. Katzew is the Director of Pastoral Care at Cedar Village Care and Community, where she serves as the spiritual leader of the Abrahamson-Goldman Temple, as well as a Board Certified Chaplain to all residents of Cedar Village. Cantor Katzew is a mentor to Hebrew Union College Rabbincit students who serve Cedar Village through its Jewish Foundation Fellowship program. Cantor Katzew also serves as liaison for Cedar Village to the Jewish Home for the Aged (formerly known as Cedar Village), linking the two organizations in the present day.

Introduced in 2015, the Music and Memory program at Cedar Village serves as a nexus of music and elder care for Cantor Katzew.

In addition to her professional contributions at Cedar Village, Cantor Katzew volunteers on the organizing committee for the Mayerson JCC Jewish & Israeli Film Festival, and with the American Jewish Committee, Simon Lazarus Awards program.

Cantor Katzew moved to Cincinnati in 2012 with her husband after working a decade at the Union for Reform Judaism as its Director of Music Programming. Ordained at the Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute for Religion, New York in 1981, she has been a pioneer among women Cantors. The first female to serve as cantor in the State of Israel and on the faculty at the Jerusalem campus of HUC, she has witnessed first-hand the historic transformation of modern Judaism during her nearly four decades as a Cantor. During her career, she has proudly introduced seniors, adults, and young people to Jewish sacred music as part of her lifelong commitment to Judaism, community service, and social justice.

MATTHEW UMPHREYS
Pianist
Cincinnati-based collaborative pianist and vocal coach Matthew Umphreys specializes in opera, chamber music, and musical theater. Matthew works as a coach, pianist, and music director with organizations such as Cincinnati Opera, concert:nova, RokCincy, The Children’s Theatre of Cincinnati, and the Schmidt Vocal Institute. He also is the co-artistic director of Queen City Cabaret, a new jazz and theatrical cabaret concert series celebrating the rich past, present, and future of the Cincinnati music scene. Matthew made his Carnegie Hall debut with the contemporary music chamber ensemble All of the Above in December 2017, and the ensemble is releasing their first album later this year through Ablaze Records.

Matthew graduated from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music with his Master’s degree in Collaborative Piano in 2014. He joined the music faculty at Xavier University in 2016 and currently serves as Director of Music at Columbia Baptist and Linwood Baptist Churches in Cincinnati. Matthew is a native of Council Bluffs, Iowa and received his undergraduate degree in Piano Performance and Business Management in 2011 from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

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MAYERSON JCC
8485 Ridge Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236
Parking is available in front of the facility. Accessible parking is indicated in the front and side of the building.

KENWOOD THEATRE
7815 Kenwood Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236
There is a parking lot in front of the theater. Additional parking is located beneath the building in the structure which is accessible through the entrance on the side of the building. More parking is available across the street in the Kenwood Towne Center lot.

ESQUIRE THEATRE
320 Ludlow Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220
On-street parking is available on or near Ludlow Avenue. The Esquire validates tickets for moviegoers for two hours of parking in the “Merchant Lot” on Howell, located one block from Ludlow Avenue (side street off Clifton Avenue -- behind Clifton Market). Howell Avenue is parallel to Ludlow Avenue.

SKIRBALL MUSEUM, MAYERSON HALL - HUC-JIR CAMPUS
3101 Clifton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220
On-campus parking available across from and behind Mayerson Hall; in the circle and lot in front of Herman Learning; and behind Sisterhood Building and Klau Library.

MARIEMONT THEATRE
6906 Wooster Pike
Cincinnati, Ohio 45227
There is a small lot in front of the building. Additional parking is located behind the theatre. Parking is available across the street in the Comey & Shepherd Realtors lot after 5pm, courtesy of Comey & Shepherd Realtors.

CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM, FATH AUDITORIUM
953 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Complimentary parking is available in the Museum lots. Please use the east parking lot, just around the building from the main visitor parking lot and entrance, and enter through the Dewitt Entrance for closest access to the Fath Auditorium.

UNION TERMINAL, REAKIRT AUDITORIUM
1301 Western Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45203
Parking at Union Terminal is $4 (per vehicle) after 4:30pm and free for Museum Members. The JCC will be running a shuttle bus between the parking lots and front entrance of Union Terminal before and after the event.

20TH CENTURY THEATER
3021 Madison Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45209
There is nearby street parking. Valet parking will be available.

For more information, please email arts@mayersonjcc.org or call 513.722.7258.

Mazel Tov to the JCC Jewish & Israeli Film Festival committee on a job well done!

– Marc & Evelyn Fisher

Cohen Recycling is proud to support the Mayerson JCC Jewish & Israeli Film Festival.
MEET THE COMMITTEE

STACEY SCHIMBERG – CHAIR
I have loved being a part of the committee for the past six seasons because I enjoy gathering community members together to experience amazing aspects of Jewish and Israeli culture and history. My favorite Festival memory is when we gathered for Opening Night several years ago and showed Remember, the gripping Holocaust-related drama starring Christopher Plummer. You could cut the suspense in the room with a knife and it was an all-around great night!

MARCIE BACHRACH
My most memorable Film Festival experience is about to happen! I am very excited about our night of short films. This is the first time that we are offering five short films in one evening. Please join me for an evening of shorts on February 6!

LAUREN MCGILL
My favorite film playing this Festival is The MamboNiks. As a lover of dancing and music, this documentary hits all the right notes between historical narrative, epic characters, and some older gents and gals with some smooth moves! If you want to see a movie that will make you want to get up and dance, this is for you!

LAUREN BOWEN
I feel very privileged and blessed to be a part of the Mayerson JCC Jewish & Israeli Film Festival Committee because of the wonderful people I have gotten to know. As a member of the Cincinnati chapter of Christians United for Israel, I cherish opportunities to celebrate Israel as well as Jewish culture. I am passionate about causes that honor the heritage and history of the Jewish people, and am extremely grateful for this opportunity and experience.

ALISON CALLER
With a background in social work and writing, I find being on the Film committee to be incredibly interesting and educational. As supporters of the JCC and many other Jewish agencies, our family is happy to do our part in sponsoring this successful Film Festival. My Favorite film in the 2020 Festival is Witness Theater, because the relationship between the Holocaust survivors and the students is so touching and genuine.

SYDNEY FINE
I enjoy being on the Film Festival Committee because I believe that film has the power to educate, entertain, and bring people together. As a committee member, I hope to ensure that there is diversity across the films so that there is something that everyone can relate to, but also something that can widen or shift perspectives.

ANDREW D. HELDMAN
I’m a life-long film buff who loves critiquing films and the committee discussions. I’m especially interested in films that enlighten and educate, and films that you just won’t see elsewhere. Israeli films have really come a long way in a very short period of time, and it’s been great being a part of the committee and considering some really wonderful filmmaking.

CANTOR ALANE KATZEW
Blockbuster movies are fine, but I prefer the artsy and thought-provoking style of film. Spending my leisure time pre-screening movies for the Festival is both an honor and a pleasure. The honor is serving as a volunteer member on the committee; the pleasure is experiencing the broad variety of films, refreshing my Hebrew language skills, contributing to our Jewish community, and engaging with the many terrific people I have met while volunteering.

AMY KLEIN
I am an OT at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and am passionate about helping kids (and their families) with eating challenges. In addition to watching films, I enjoy spending my free time hanging out with my dad, Jerry, and dog, Rover.

SARAH KLEYMEYER
This Film Festival season, I am most looking forward to the night of short films. While feature-length films can take you on a winding journey, shorts by nature “pack a punch” and get you to the end of that journey faster. Bringing a night of short films to our festival is new and exciting. I hope all our Film Festival supporters come to support this unique evening, featuring a panel of our committee members who will be discussing favorites and why they advocated for short films.

LIAT MAGGID ALON
I particularly liked two movies this year: The Unorthodox is an Israeli movie depicting the rise of Shas, the Mizrahi ultraorthodox party, to political power. I loved the way the movie was filmed, the costumes and setting. It is an extremely Israeli movie that explains an important moment in Israeli political history. Those Who Remained is a unique Holocaust movie, providing a perspective we have not often been offered – that of those who remained alive and behind the Iron Curtain.

PAUL SPITZ
I enjoy serving on the Film Festival committee because I love movies and going to the movies. The committee gives me a chance to see movies before the general community, and to have a say in which ones are included in the festival.

TERRY STRANSKY
This is my second year on the Film Festival committee. I joined after having been to several previous Festivals, and really enjoying the movies. As a completely areligious Jew, I was fascinated by the unusual, sometimes off-beat, ways in which films portrayed Jewish culture, religion, politics and Israel. Although a geologist by profession, I minored in political science in college, with a special interest in the Middle East and Russia, so the films we review are right up my alley.

DAVID WISH
In the 2020 Festival, I love the film The Passengers because it explores an issue I had no idea existed and is very relevant in today’s environment. I joined the committee because I have always loved watching films and discussing content. Being a member of the committee gives me exposure to many films I would never have considered previously. My favorite memory is Opening Night last year. Seeing so many people show up for and enjoy an event we spent so much time planning felt like a great accomplishment.
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Your sponsorship ensures that high-quality filmed stories, reflecting the diversity and vitality of Jewish life, will continue to be produced, screened and enjoyed for generations to come. Your brand will be aligned with a strong festival featuring sold-out films across the city. The Mayerson JCC is a 501(c)3 organization and contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Contact us at support@mayersonjcc.org or 513.761.7500 x1293 to learn more about sponsorship opportunities!

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MAYERSON JCC JEWISH & ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL 2020
This year’s Film Festival speakers are supported by: Roslyn W. and Julie Gildenblatt Memorial Endowment “as a living legacy to their commitment to the Jewish community and to the heritage of pluralistic Jewish study.”

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