

..... MAYERSON JCC

JEWISH & ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL

.....

January 28 - March 1, 2023

Universal stories seen
through a different lens



PROGRAM BOOK

 **MAYERSON JCC**
of Cincinnati

The Mayerson JCC Jewish & Israeli Film Festival presents a diverse, inspiring lineup of award-winning films and engaging, educational programming that connects to Jewish and Israeli stories.

The 2023 Festival has a hybrid lineup with each film offered in-person only or virtual only to allow for viewing in community or from the comfort of your home. There are six in-person and five virtual film offerings. The virtual only film showings and companion special features have 48-hour watch availability. Please note the specific geographic regions in which each virtual film is available. The in-person only film showings and companion special features take place on the scheduled date. Please note the specific venue at which each in-person event will take place.

Details as of 12.19.2022.

**To learn more, watch trailers,
and purchase tickets, visit
MayersonJCC.org/Film**

For technology troubleshooting and Eventive virtual platform support, please visit watch.eventive.org/help

For Festival questions & information, please contact arts@mayersonjcc.org

These films are not rated and are recommended for mature audiences.

*Only film - not special feature - runtimes are noted.
All times listed are Eastern Time.*

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..... MAYERSON JCC

JEWISH & ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL

.....

Welcome to the 2023 Mayerson JCC Jewish & Israeli Film Festival! We are excited to offer another year of engaging, diverse, enriching films and speakers. The past several years of the pandemic presented challenges, but your strength and support allowed us to continue this successful annual community experience.

This year we are glad to offer a lineup with both in-person and virtual events. We welcome the community back to physically gather for a variety of in-person programs, and to continue to enjoy virtual offerings from the comfort of your homes.

Thank you to all the supporters of this Festival - sponsors, partners, and attendees - and all who contribute to it both professionally and personally.

We invite you to explore this year's Festival through the pages of this book. Read on to learn about the films, storytellers, and speakers of the 2023 Mayerson JCC Jewish & Israeli Film Festival!



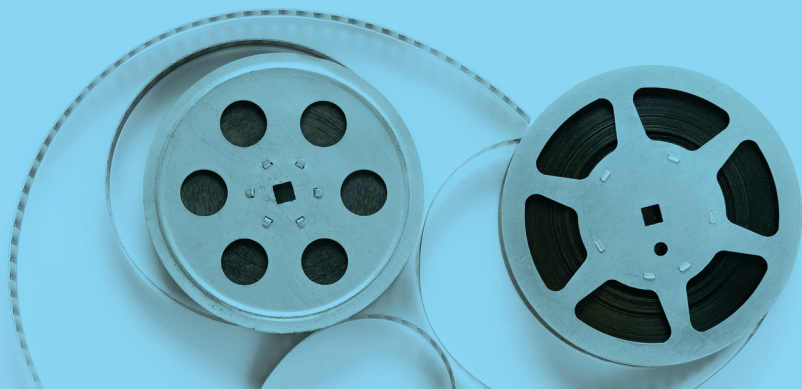
Frances Kahan
Director of Cultural Arts
& Engagement



Aaron Weiner
Committee Chair



Marc Fisher
Mayerson JCC CEO



Mazel Tov to
the JCC and the
Film Festival
Committee for
another great
festival!



ROCKWERN
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Opening Film



Saturday, January 28

7:30pm ET

In-Person at 20th Century Theater

2021 · Romantic Comedy

91 minutes · Hebrew · Guri Alfi

This charming story-within-a-story features a young and brilliant journalist working on a famous newspaper who doesn't really believe in love. Still, she decides to go on a date. Soon she's talking about relationships past, and a cringe-worthy parade of infidelity, humiliation and burned bridges. Maybe it's not the best story to share on a first date. Or maybe it is...

CONTENT WARNING: language, sexual situations

SPECIAL FEATURE

Ticket includes an opening night reception.

*Presenting Partners: Jewish Federation of Cincinnati -
Young Adult Division and Mayerson JCC 20s & 30s*

FILM EXTRAS

From the Director

A few years ago, a young and promising writer, named Omer Barak, came up to me and asked me to take a look at his draft for his debut book, *Wedding Rush*. I fell in love and my recommendation was on the back cover of the book. And this is what I wrote: "Finally a romantic comedy that is actually funny... Buy the book! If not out of curiosity, then out of mercy, be human."

A few years passed since the book was published and we started working on the script. Together with the screenwriter Dror Weidman, we found a different angle in the story, and we changed the point of view, so that one of the supporting characters became the protagonist.

We chose the wonderful Dina Sanderson to play this role. Dina has the rare combination of a big heart and pure sarcasm, and she plays the role in the movie with great talent. Now I know what you are thinking, how can two males write a female character? It is easy, because women love *Bridgerton* and the second album of Nathan Goshen. But just to be sure, we got two talented female screenwriters, Noa Arenberg and Galit Hoogi. We previously collaborated on the TV series *My Successful Sisters* and, lucky me, they didn't delete my number. That is how this odd and talented group came together, with the

patient guidance of "Sir" Avi Neshet, and created the movie *One More Story* inspired by *Wedding Rush*.

The new adaptation of the book was one of the most challenging and interesting jobs I took part in. And I think that eventually, we created a movie that is not too serious (like comedy should be) but at the same time true to love and relationships of nowadays (And I'm not talking about polyamory in the newspaper again, Hila! I swear!). Shooting the film was the easier part. All the guest appearances and the amazing cast we created made the shooting days fly by. At the end of this project, I became a fan of each and every one of the people who took part in it. I would like to thank everyone who had faith in me, after all this is my first movie as a director.



Guri Alfi Aharon

Director/Co-Writer/Actor

Guri Alfi was born in 1976 in Ramat Gan, Israel. He is a writer and actor, known for *Matzav Ha'Uma* (2010), *The Human Resources Manager* (2010), and *Hed* (2018), all of which received Israeli Academy recognition. *One More Story* is Guri Alfi's feature film directorial debut, in which he stars.

We may come from different places and may express our Jewishness in different ways, but we are unified in our vision to build a flourishing, diverse Jewish community for future generations.



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The Jewish Federation of Cincinnati is a 501(c)(3) organization,
and achieved the highest rating from Charity Navigator.

The Conference



January 29 - 31 Virtual 48-hr Viewing Window opens at 7:30pm ET on January 29 Viewing Region: Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana

2022 · Historical Drama
108 minutes · German · Matti Geschonneck

On January 20, 1942, leading members of the Nazi regime met in a villa in Berlin-Wannsee for a meeting that went down in history as the “Wannsee Conference.” The sole topic on the agenda that morning was what the Nazis called the “Final Solution to the Jewish Question,” the organization of the systematic mass murder of millions of Jews from across Europe. This historically accurate, haunting drama was produced for the 80th Commemoration Day of the Conference.

CONTENT WARNING: hateful language, disturbing topic

SPECIAL FEATURE

Monday, January 30 | 7:30pm ET | Virtual

Join for a discussion with Jodi Elowitz, Chief Learning Officer, The Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center, and Erik Jensen, Associate Professor of History, Miami University.

*Presenting Partner: Jewish Family Service
Additional partnership support from The Nancy & David Wolf
Holocaust & Humanity Center*

FILM EXTRAS

Historical Context

At the invitation of Reinhard Heydrich, head of the Reich Main Security Office (which included SiPo, the Gestapo and the Security Service), a meeting was held at midday on January 20, 1942 in the villa at no. 58 Großen Wannsee. It lasted approximately 90 minutes and was attended by representatives of the SS, the Nazi party and several government ministries. There was one item on the agenda: the "Final Solution to the Jewish Question." Heydrich's aim was for his leading role in the deportations to be recognized and to include important ministries and party officials in the preparations for the genocide of European Jews.

In a business-like fashion, the men discussed the contentious issues of authority and jurisdiction for the operation, they made suggestions and raised objections in the interests of their own units, but overall declared themselves willing to cooperate, making these prominent men of the German state apparatus conspirators and accomplices.

Heydrich announced to the participants that on the "prior approval" of Adolf Hitler, all European Jews were to be deported to Eastern Europe. Adolf Eichmann, Head of the Judenreferat at the Reich Main Security Office, recorded the outcome of the meeting in a set of minutes. This date, January 20, 1942, was to be the start of a program of deportation of Jewish people from all of German occupied and allied

states to the extermination camps in Eastern Europe. Five days after the conference, Heydrich announced that the "preparation measures had been initiated."

The Document

Shortly before the end of the war, American soldiers seized Foreign Office files that had been moved to other locations. Many documents proving the crimes of the Nazi party had already been destroyed at this point, but in a folder along with 300 other pieces of invaluable evidence, they uncovered a copy of the minutes of the Wannsee Conference - the only copy found thus far of the thirty that were made.

It took a while before the true significance of the conference at Wannsee was recognized. The minutes were first presented as evidence in 1947 during the Wilhelmstraße Trial also known as the Ministries Trial, by Robert Kempner, the chief prosecutor representing the USA. Kempner was a long-time opponent of National Socialism and one of many German-Jewish emigrants who, in the post-war era, worked to restore democracy in Germany and to investigate and prosecute Nazi crimes.

This film follows the minutes of this meeting as recorded by Adolf Eichmann, and was shot on location at Lake Wannsee and in Berlin's Unionfilm Studios.

From the Director

We want to demonstrate what human beings are capable of. We want to show how the destruction of the entire Jewish population of Europe was discussed and organized in a soberly factual dialogue.



Matti Geschonneck
Director

Matti Geschonneck was born in 1952 in Potsdam, Germany and completed his professional film training at the Eisenstein Institute in Moscow. He is a director known for the award-winning films *Das Ende einer Nacht* (2012), *Silberhochzeit* (2006), *In Times of Fading Light* (2017), and *Die Wannseekonferenz*, also known as *The Conference* (2022).



Jodi Elowitz
Speaker

Jodi Elowitz serves as the Chief Learning Officer for The Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center (HHC). She has had a wide range of experience in Holocaust studies, including teaching, overseeing numerous educational and community programs, designing workshops, resources, study guides and curriculum for secondary educators and university

students. Among her accomplishments, she led the curation of the Holocaust Gallery in the building of HHC's new museum at Union Terminal. Previously she served as the Outreach Coordinator at the Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies at the University of Minnesota, has taught in a variety of settings, and was the Director of Holocaust & Diversity Education at the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Humanities/Art History and her Master of Liberal Studies degree in Holocaust Studies at the University of Minnesota.



Erik Jensen
Speaker

Erik N. Jensen is Associate Professor of History at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. He received his PhD and MA from University of Wisconsin at Madison, and BA from Harvard University. His teaching and research interests focus on 19th and 20th Century Germany, and the histories of gender, sexuality, and the body. His first book, *Body by Weimar: Athletes, Gender, and German Modernity* (2011) focuses on changing ideals of masculinity and femininity in the 1920s. He is currently working on a biography of the half-Jewish German writer, athlete, and tastemaker Paula von Reznicek, whose marriage to a celebrity racecar driver not only enabled her to survive the entirety of the Nazi period, but also to travel the width and breadth of occupied Europe while accompanying him on a morale-building tour of the front lines of the German war front during the Second World War.



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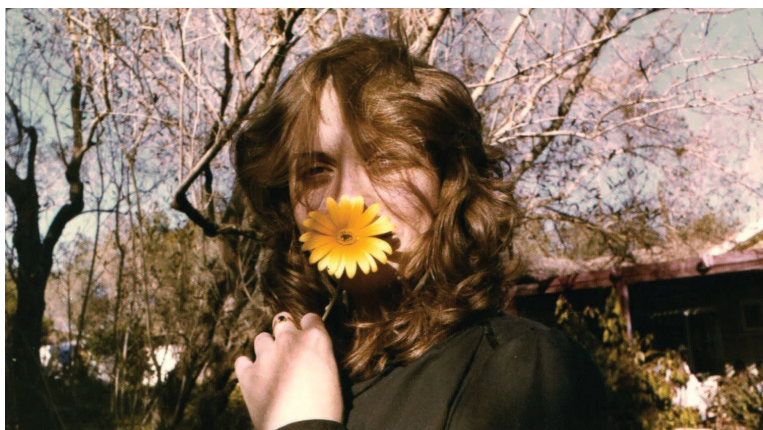


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On This Happy Note



Thursday, February 2 7:30pm ET In-Person at Mariemont Theatre



2021 • Documentary
67 minutes • Hebrew • Tamar Tal Anati

As she prepares for her death, celebrated playwright Anat Gov asks literary agent Arik Kneller to execute her will. Their last documented conversation touches upon life, death, and her writings. Consciously accepting her nearing end with humor and grace, Anat leaves behind a spiritual legacy: there can be such a thing as a happy ending. Almost a decade after her death, her loved ones try to fill the void left by her words with their own. Through excerpts from her plays and footage of her family and political world, a new script is written: one in which the line between the play and reality is blurred.

CONTENT WARNING: language

SPECIAL FEATURE

Short documentary film screening of *Polonsky* (30 minutes)
by Ofir Trainin
Content Warning: brief nudity

*Presenting Partner: Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati -
Guardians and Friends*

FILM EXTRAS



Tamar Tal Anati
Director/Writer

Tamar Tal Anati is an award-winning filmmaker with more than 20 international awards. Her debut documentary film *Life in Stills* (2011) won the Israeli Academy Award for Best Documentary and was awarded Best Film at Docaviv Film Festival. The film screened in more than 200 film festivals around the world. Tamar was named Best New Director at the 2011 Dok Leipzig International Film

Festival. Her second film *Shalom Italia* (2016) premiered at DocAviv Film Festival, IDFA, AFI Docs, Festival Dei Popoli and was nominated for the Israeli Academy Awards. The film was broadcast on PBS/POV, ARTE, AMC Canada and Yes docu in Israel.

Tamar currently lives in Italy and Israel. She works on film projects and as a consultant for the Israel Film Fund, and serves as a jury and mentor for international film festivals.

theatre AT THE J

Disney's Aladdin Jr. performances
on May 10, 11 & 14!



LEARN MORE & REGISTER
MayersonJCC.org/Theatre

 **MAYERSON JCC**
of Cincinnati

SHORT FILM: Polonsky



2022 · Short Documentary
30 minutes · Hebrew · Ofir Trainin

One of the most important and prolific illustrators working in Israel today, David Polonsky is portrayed during his work on a new children's book. Along with his masterpieces, *Waltz with Bashir* (winner of the Golden Globe), *The Congress* (winner of the European Film Awards), and *Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation* (published worldwide), the film also depicts Polonsky's own intimate world, his personal history as a child immigrant to Israel from Kyiv, and his work created for comics, journalism and children's books, which explores identity and roots.

CONTENT WARNING: brief nudity

FILM EXTRAS



Ofir Trainin
Director/Producer

Ofir Trainin is an award-winning director and scriptwriter. His films include *Family in Transition* (2018), *My Shabbat* (2015), *Apollonia* (2014) which premiered at the Haifa International Film Festival, and *Wandering Eyes* (2010) which won the Best Film Award at Docaviv Film Festival and was nominated for the Israeli Academy Awards.



Jewish Cemeteries
of Greater Cincinnati



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so generous. Together we
can honor them forever.
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a Guardian.*

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Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin



Sunday, February 5 3pm ET In-Person at Mariemont Theatre

2021 • Documentary
87 minutes • English, Hebrew, Arabic • Jonathan Gruber

A proud yet scarred leader haunted by the Holocaust and decades of war, former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin struggled to balance history and heroism to make peace with his greatest enemy and cement a legacy long misunderstood. This portrait captures the life of Menachem Begin, a nuanced and complicated canvas that tells the story of key events in the history of modern Israel.

CONTENT WARNING: violence

SPECIAL FEATURE

Join for a discussion with Avi Shilon Ph.D., author of the book,
Menachem Begin: A Life

*Presenting Partner: Jewish Federation of Cincinnati -
Jewish Community Relations Council*

FILM EXTRAS

From the Director

When I was asked to direct *Upheaval*, I immediately knew that the complexity of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's story should be underscored by the need to strike a balance among vastly different political ideological perspectives. As we see in society today, the gray is often erased in favor of more partisan and oversimplified stances, when, as I see it, there are untold nuances to leadership from which we can learn deeper truths and lessons. This film is a study in the gray.

Begin fiercely advocated for Arab-Israeli citizenship but was deemed a radical right-winger for his role in fighting for Israel's independence, such as settlements in the West Bank. He elevated North African and Middle Eastern Jews in Israeli society, helping to counter the discrimination they were facing, and he also oversaw the rescue of Ethiopian Jews and Vietnamese refugees, welcoming them as immigrants. He sought and achieved peace with Egypt - but also led a tragic and unsuccessful war in Lebanon.

I am a believer in subjects telling their stories in their own words. In this case, that meant a film without narration, as Begin died nearly 30 years ago. Nonetheless, my vision as director was to bring a new dimension to the telling of his journey. To do so, we used a blend of emotionally gripping

archival footage, animation, dynamic interviews, and cinematic footage that chronicles Begin's life, while also bringing to fore the diverse beauty of Israel and its people.

Directing the first English-language feature documentary on Prime Minister Begin has been an eye-opening exploration of the heart and mind of one of the most iconic leaders of the 20th century. From his Eastern European roots to becoming an advocate and politician on the world stage, Begin's humility and modesty belie his courage and resilience. For better or for worse, he stood up for his ideals, and, ultimately, he held himself accountable to them. World leaders today would be wise to learn from someone who did not enrich himself through his position but fought for his values and beliefs on behalf of the people who elected him.



Jonathan Gruber
Director/Writer/Producer

Jonathan Gruber has been directing, writing, and producing award-winning documentary films for more than 20 years. With his company, Black Eye Productions, he has helped celebrate long-overlooked individuals, inform generations, build brands, facilitate social movements, and, of course, entertain. His documentaries are immersive viewing experiences, and include

Miriam Beerman: Expressing the Chaos, Follow Me, Life Is a Banquet, Jewish Soldiers in Blue & Gray, STU, and Pola's March. He was also the Co-Creator and Executive Producer of the MSNBC series, *The Story of Cool*. Jonathan specializes in building trust with his interview subjects, gently taking them on a storytelling journey and ultimately creating an environment that allows for honesty and vulnerability. Whether a 90-minute documentary film, a two-minute viral video, or a 30-second advertisement, Jonathan looks at all projects as stories worth remembering.

Yossi Beilin and the Politics of the Peace Process was published recently. Shilon was a visiting scholar at NYU in the last three years. He also writes op-ed columns for *Haaretz*.



Avi Shilon Speaker

Dr. Avi Shilon is a historian and his field of expertise is Israel Studies, focusing on right-wing Zionism and Israeli society and politics. He is the author of Menachem Begin's biography – *Menachem Begin: A Life* (Yale University Press, 2012). His second book, *Ben Gurion: His Later Years in the Political Wilderness* was published in 2016 and his new book, *The Decline of the Left-wing in Israel:*



February 6 - 8
Virtual 48-hr Viewing Window opens at
7:30pm ET on February 6
Viewing Region: Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana

2022 · Drama

110 minutes · German · Thomas Roth

VIENNA 1960s. Victor, a young Jewish businessman, has to witness how the prosecution of a Nazi crime perpetrated against his family unjustly fails in the courtroom. The political and legal system is still run by former Nazis. When Victor also loses his grief-stricken father and his girlfriend's family opposes their relationship and his identity, Victor completely loses faith in the system and takes matters in his own hands.

CONTENT WARNING: violence

Presenting Partner: AJC Cincinnati

*Additional partnership support from The Nancy & David Wolf
Holocaust & Humanity Center*

FILM EXTRAS

From the Director

Victor Dessauer is old enough to have experienced the horrors of the Nazi Regime as a child and is still young enough to carry the anger of youth when we begin our story. I wanted to capture his awakening and confrontation with this Nazi past which became characteristic for Victor's generation and opened the door for a spirit of a wider rebellion that painfully changed society, while being inseparable from the present. Much of this story radiates into our present society and how quickly the cycle of hatred can re-emerge in all of us.



Thomas Roth

Director/Writer/Producer

Thomas Roth has worked as a freelance director and author since 1995. He's received multiple awards, including the Erich Neuberger Prize, the Golden Romy and the Golden Ticket for his film *FALCO, verdammt wir leben noch*. He is the screenwriter and director of the multiple award-winning TV series *Trautmann*. He has also contributed many films to the prominent German-language series *Tatort*, *Der Kommissar* und *das Meer*, *Kommissar Dupin* and *Der Kriminalist*.

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1341 Frames of Love and War



PREMIERE
2022 BERLIN
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

WINNER
BEST DIRECTOR, BEST EDITING,
KADAR AWARD
2022 DOCAVIV INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

Monday, February 13

7:30pm ET

**In-Person at Cincinnati
Skirball Museum**

2022 • Documentary

90 minutes • Hebrew • Ran Tal

Composed entirely of images from an archive of over half a million negatives taken by acclaimed photo-journalist Micha Bar-Am, this story begins in Berlin in 1930, moves to Palestine in 1936, becomes a love affair with Zionism in the 1950s and turns into a journey of self-doubt and questioning, in a profound exploration of photography, memory, identity, and the personal cost of a life devoted to recording a conflict.

CONTENT WARNING: brief nudity, violence

SPECIAL FEATURE

Join for a discussion with Dr. Elliot Ratzman, Chair in
Jewish Studies, Earlham College.

As a complement to the film, the Skirball Museum will display
a group of works by Israeli artists that address the themes of love
and war in Israel, as well as some documentary materials about
Micha Bar-Am.

*Presenting Partners: Cincinnati Skirball Museum and
Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion*

FILM EXTRAS

About Micha Bar-Am

"It was a wonderfully quiet, magical afternoon," writes Micha Bar-Am about the 1973 war in his memoir. "A calm, blue sea, the salt marshes glinting white, the sand damp and clean. We marched along the shoreline as in a classic war movie. When we made contact with the enemy and the shells started to fly, everyone kept walking as if the mushroom clouds belonged to another world, not this one... We supported the mildly wounded and carried the casualties on stretchers. By the light of the moon and the flares, we advanced in a gloomy convoy along the waterline, wary of landmines, through a bizarre stage-set as the exploding shells and sounds of gunfire served as background music and stage lighting..."

Bar-Am is Israel's greatest photographer. He was born in Berlin in 1930 and started taking pictures in Israel in the 1950s. He is today the oldest living member of Magnum and is co-founder of the International Center of Photography in NYC.

He has exhibited in museums the world over and has worked for the most prestigious news publications in the West. He is an Israel Prize laureate for Visual Arts "for his lifelong recording of the social and cultural scene in Israel and its ongoing conflicts with a critical eye and an indelible style."

Bar-Am is mainly known for his iconic wartime photos, but by virtue

of his taking pictures day after day for over fifty years, every aspect of Israeli civilian life is captured in his work. Bar-Am obsessively carried out his documentary work until he lost interest in photography. He laid down his camera when cameras went digital in the early 2000s.

After decades of work, Micha Bar-Am has accumulated hundreds of thousands of contact sheets which constitute a unique, detailed visual testimony of the Israeli project. This enormous collection is stored in the basement of his house in Ramat Gan.

From the Director

Bar-Am is a brilliant photographer with a vast scope of work, covering all areas of Israeli society for decades. However, he is mostly known for his iconic war photographs. Referring to his assignment as a young photographer during the Eichmann Trial in 1961, he says: "I realized I was in the right place to document an important chapter in Jewish history." Micha's realization that he occupies an important role in the documentation of the Israeli project lends his story and his work both emotion and urgency that is hard to find in other photographers.

In *Regarding the Pain of Others* (2002), Susan Sontag wrote about the dark beauty at the heart of war: "Finding beauty in war photographs sounds cruel. But the landscape of devastation is still a landscape. There is beauty in ruins."

In my films, I have been preoccupied with mapping and observing Israeli society and its soul. Bar-Am is a

witness and a documentarian. For decades now, he observes, freezes the moment, and catalogs it in his archive. His unique perspective on the events that shaped Israeli society allows me to look at the images he created and, with the help of cinema, take these “decisive moments” to surprising places.

The challenge in making a film solely from stills is part of my attraction to the Bar-Am archive. The tension between stillness and movement, between sound and picture, and between reflections and memories in the present time provides the film with endlessly fascinating layers and connections. *1341 FRAMES* is a film about photography, memory and the tension between them.



Ran Tal

Director/Producer

Ran Tal is an independent filmmaker whose documentaries focus on the Israeli reality through a social and historical perspective. His work has been screened, celebrated and recognized by organizations such as Israel Documentary Forum, the Jerusalem Film Festival, and DocAviv. He is known for his films *What If? Ehud Barak on War & Peace* (2020), *The Museum* (2017), *The Garden of Eden* (2012),

Children of the Sun (2007), and *Skin Deep* (1996). Tal is the recipient of numerous awards including an Israeli Academy Award, the Ministry of Culture Cinema Art Prize, and the Landau Award for Stage Art.

Tal is the director of the International MFA Documentary Program at the Steve Tisch School of Film and Television at Tel Aviv University. He is the founder and editor of *Takriv (Close Up)*, an online magazine for the discussion and critique of documentary film (www.takriv.net).



Elliot Ratzman

Speaker

Dr. Elliot Ratzman, a native of Cincinnati, now teaches courses in the Religion Department at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. He has published articles on the intersection of Jewish thought and philosophy, ethics and health care justice. He is currently finishing his first book, *Zipporah's Knife: A Jewish Reckoning With Race*, which examines post-1967 issues around anti-racism in the US, Israel, and Europe.

PROUD SPONSORS OF THE MAYERSON JCC JEWISH & ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL



SKIRBALL MUSEUM
CINCINNATI

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
3101 Clifton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS



MONDAY, MARCH 13, 5 PM

FILM SCREENING OF "THE SAMARITANS: A BIBLICAL PEOPLE BY MOSEH ALAFI at the *American Jewish Archives*

On Mt. Gerizim, a community struggles to prevent extinction and preserve the Torah and their Holy Mountain.

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 7 PM

GOOD SAMARITANS? JEWISH-SAMARITAN RELATIONS IN THE ROMAN WORLD at the *Klaw Library*

Professor Steven Fine, Ph.D. of Yeshiva University explores the complex and fascinating relationship between Jews and Samaritans in the Roman world.



TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 12 NOON

"HE SHOWED HIM THE LIKENESS OF THE TABERNACLE": THE BIBLICAL TABERNACLE IN SAMARITAN LITERATURE AND ART at the *Klaw Library*

Professor Steven Fine, Ph.D. of Yeshiva University presents Samaritan literary and visual sources on the Tabernacle, believed to have been constructed by Joshua on Mt. Gerizim.



THURSDAY, MARCH 23

FRANK STELLA: ILLUSTRATIONS AFTER EL LISSITSKY'S HAD GADYA SERIES

opens in Mayerson Auditorium at the Skirball Museum

Frank Stella (b. 1936), the American painter, sculptor and printmaker created 12 lithographs based on the lyrical poem Had Gadya (One Little Goat) that concludes the Seder, or festive meal, on the Jewish holiday of Passover.

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 11 AM VIA ZOOM

TZAFUN: THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES WORK OF REPAIRING THE 1526 PRAGUE HAGGADAH

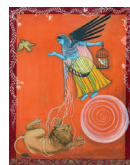
Ashleigh N. Ferguson Schieszer, Rare Book and Paper Conservator at The Preservation Lab, describes the intricate process required to restore one of the earliest illustrated Haggadot in the Rare Book collection of the Klaw Library.



THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 5:30 PM

BEYOND BORDERS: the ART OF SIONA BENJAMIN
opens at the Skirball Museum

Siona Benjamin is descended from the Bene Israel Jewish community whose lore dates them in Asia for 2000 years. Immigration, gender, the concept of 'home', and the role of art in social change are explored through vibrantly hued paintings.



RSVP and event information: awheeler@huc.edu/513.487.3231

Greener Pastures



12 NOMINATIONS
INCLUDING BEST FILM,
DIRECTOR, SCREENPLAY, ACTOR
AND ACTRESS
2020 OPHIR AWARDS

February 15 - 17
Virtual 48-hr Viewing Window opens at
7:30pm ET on February 15
Viewing Region: Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana

2020 • Comedy
 88 minutes • Hebrew • Matan Guggenheim and Assaf Abiri

When Dov is forced to move into a retirement community, he is determined to find a way back to his beloved family home. When cannabis, love, and crime come into play, he finds himself at a crossroads: will he risk it all to make his dream come true?

CONTENT WARNING: drugs



Presenting Partner: Jewish Home of Cincinnati

FILM EXTRAS

From the Filmmakers

Old age - what to do with it?

It lurks, waiting for us; we watch our parents grow into it, and know that sooner or later, it'll sneak up on us, too. It's slow, heavy, has back issues, maybe heart issues too, and worst of all - it removes us from the center of things, brands us with a cruel expiry date.

Cannabis - what to do with it?

It crumbles between our fingers, gets stuffed into a joint, and then makes us forget about the unbearable weight of our existence, all the big questions, ourselves.

Combining the two - old age and cannabis - led us to create a story about the encounter between an old man who feels his life is over, and the "good stuff" that shines a new light on the depressing stereotypes of the elderly, reintroducing it as an option not less intriguing than other life stages.



Matan Guggenheim and Assaf Abiri

Directors

Matan Guggenheim and Assaf Abiri are filmmakers and screenwriters. Both hold an undergraduate degree from the Steve Tisch School of Film and Television at Tel Aviv University. Matan directed the feature film, *Paradise Cruise*, an Israeli-German co-production supported and funded by the Israel Film Fund. Assaf co-developed the TV series *Have My Child* and wrote and directed the pilot episode for the TV series *My Town*.

SHORT FILM: **White Eye**



NOMINATION
BEST LIVE ACTION
SHORT FILM
2021 ACADEMY AWARDS



NOMINATION
BEST SHORT FEATURE FILM
2020 OPHIR AWARDS



2019 · Short Drama
20 minutes · Hebrew · Tomer Shushan

A man finds his stolen bicycle, which now belongs to a stranger. While attempting to retrieve it, a perceived injustice quickly becomes a tangled web of moral questions that prove far from easy to resolve.

CONTENT WARNING: language

FILM EXTRAS

From the Director

Excerpted from *The Daily Texan* article "Q&A: Director Tomer Shushan talks Oscar-nominated short film *White Eye*" by Thomas Casler on March 26, 2021.

No one can understand what it is to be a person that is (undocumented) or is foreign. No one can see them in the streets, where they live (or) where they work. It's just an image of a foreign thing and people don't see the human side. I feel that this (lack of understanding) can make those people very frustrated ... The authorities, the government and the society puts those people (at) the bottom.

I really wanted to create this (connection) with the audience and the main character. The main character is a person that (bases) his actions (on) his instinct, and he never stops to think about (right) or wrong, and I felt the camera shouldn't stop (either).

The most important thing is to control the rhythm of the story. And if you make a one-shot film, which is a big decision, you need to justify it. You can't have empty moments where people will say, "Cut it and let's move on." You need to ask yourself why you're doing (this). And when you have the answer, you just need to adapt the story to a one-shot scene. Building this formula (was) a huge puzzle that was very hard to build. At the end of it, you feel very satisfied.

also won at 10 other film festivals and participated in over 60 others. Currently, he is developing his first full length film, *Between The Sand Grains*, and a TV thriller, *Torso*.



Tomer Shushan

Director

Tomer Shushan is a director and screenwriter. Born in 1987 and raised in Tel Aviv, he served three years in the Israeli army as a photographer. He then graduated from the Film Department of Minshar School of Art, Tel Aviv, with an Excellence scholarship in 2016. Since 2016, Timer has been a film teacher in Branco Weiss high school for at-risk youth groups. As a filmmaker, Tomer directed *Inside Shells* (2017) which screened in Toronto, FIPA and Sao Paulo International Short Film Festival, amongst others. *White Eye* (2019), his second short, won the Best Narrative Short Jury Award at SXSW and Best Narrative Short at Urbanworld Film Festival – both Oscar qualifying festivals. The film

Jewish Home of Cincinnati is proud to be a sponsor of the 2023 Mayerson JCC Jewish and Israeli Film Festival and we thank the JCC for the work they do year-round to positively impact the lives of Jewish older adults. We want to congratulate the JCC on receiving the Wilbur M. Cohen Family Annual Award to Support Senior Health and Wellness.





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Sunday, February 19
3pm ET
In-Person at Mayerson JCC



2021 • Drama, Comedy
 102 minutes • French • Aurélie Saada

Rose, 78 years old, has just lost her husband whom she adored. When her grief gives way to a powerful impulse to live, making her realize that she can still redefine herself as a woman, the whole balance of the family is upset. This film acts as a life-affirming reminder that it's never too late to seek happiness.

CONTENT WARNING: brief language, sexual references

SPECIAL FEATURE

Join for a recorded discussion with film director
 Aurélie Saada.

*Presenting Partner: Jewish Federation of Cincinnati -
 Silver Circle Society and Create Your Jewish Legacy*

*FREE tickets available for Jewish Federation Silver Circle Society
 and Create Your Jewish Legacy donors. Please contact Emma
 Chaney at echaney@jfedcin.org or 513.985.1526 to RSVP.*

FILM EXTRAS

From the Director

Rose is the story of an intimate revolution, that of a 78-year-old woman who, after losing her beloved husband, discovers herself and realizes that she is not just a mother, a grandmother, and a widow, but that she is also a woman, and that she has the right to enjoy and to desire for the rest of her life.



Aurélie Saada
Director/Co-Writer

Aurélie Saada is a singer, director and songwriter. In 2007, she and Sylvie Hoarau created the duo Brigitte, with which she has released five albums, toured the world and won numerous awards, and for whom she has directed all the videos and shows. She composed and performed the soundtrack of the documentary film *I have Been Waiting for You* by Stéphanie Pillonca (released in December 2021), for which she received a special mention from the Jury at the La Baule International Festival of Cinema and Film Music in 2021. *Rose*, for which she wrote the screenplay and the original music, is her first feature film.
<http://aureliesaada.com>



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February 21 - 23
Virtual 48-hr Viewing Window opens at
7:30pm ET on February 21
Viewing Region: USA

2021 · Documentary
65 minutes · Hebrew · Rubi Gat

Yam doesn't like when people tell him no. No, you can't act on stage, no, you can't fly with your family, no, you can't go out with your friends for a beer. Especially not if the reason is his wheelchair. But when they told him he couldn't be drafted into the army, he set out on the battle of his life.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Wednesday, February 22 | 7:30pm ET | Virtual

Join for a discussion with film director and father of film subject
Yam Gat, Rubi Gat.

*Presenting Partners: Jewish National Fund USA and
Mayerson JCC Milton and Frances Schloss Special Needs
and Services Department*

FILM EXTRAS

From the Director

When Yam, my eldest son, was nine months old he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. My partner and I were in complete shock. Like many parents in this situation, we denied the facts and refused to believe the truth. We vowed to raise him like 'everyone else' and defeat the disability. I ran around with Yam from one doctor to another, to therapists and healers, riding horses and therapeutic swimming, from hope to despair.

One day I collapsed from exhaustion, from neglecting my career, from dealing with one thing alone – the war against Yam's disability. When I was a teenager, the age that Yam is now, I understood that I was gay. In the 1970s this seemed like the end of the world. I felt that my sexuality was a disability. I tried to fight it. I wanted to be like 'everyone else' and I failed. With the passing years I have learned to love my own differences and I have discovered in them strength and goodness.

In the process of raising Yam I realized that just like I could not 'fix' my sexuality, it was unlikely that I would succeed in fixing Yam's disability. More importantly, there is no need to try. I am better able to make the most of what life has given me if I don't waste my strength on senseless battles.

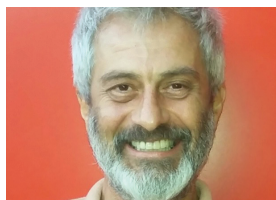
When Yam was four years old I bought him a motorized wheelchair. Everyone around

me objected to this but it was clear to me that attaining independence was Yam's best chance of having a life that he could control and for that he needed a motorized wheelchair – without the need to depend on others to push him here or there.

That is the way I have raised Yam. At home, we speak openly. I have taught Yam not to be ashamed. I have fought against all the systems (mainly the Ministry of Education) to provide access for Yam's wheelchair. Yam is an articulate young man with a sharp tongue. He doesn't hesitate to speak frankly about most issues. He vigorously fights for the rights of the disabled and at the same time he does not pity himself or ask for special treatment from life or from us. Except for accessibility, if Yam can get there, he will be successful.

But life challenges us from directions we haven't considered, like, how can you prepare your son for his first date?

Not a Hero is an intimate film that was made over a period of five years and documents his development and that of our family. We shot most of the film ourselves. Yam shoots with a GoPro camera attached to his wheelchair and I have my small camera and two iPads. We used professional photographers only in a few instances. Thus, family scenes remain intimate and genuine without the presence of a stranger, who by virtue of being there, even if only slightly, affects the authenticity.



Rubi Gat

Director/Producer

Rubi Gat is Jerusalem born, and a father of three. He is the director and producer of the films *Not a Hero* (2021) and *Dear Fredy* (2017). From 1994-2010, he served as Chief Video Editor for the BBC bureau in Jerusalem.

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February 26 - 28
Virtual 48-hr Viewing Window opens at
7:30pm ET on February 26
Viewing Region: Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana

2020 • Documentary
63 minutes • Hebrew • Mordechai Vardi

This documentary tells the story of three men and two women who marry against their orientation in order to fulfill religious and cultural expectations. We hear painful accounts of confusion, deception, anger and guilt. The film exposes how both the gay partners and their straight spouses suffer devastating consequences when they are expected to follow these norms. The subjects experience journeys of self-acceptance and social activism, as they try to affect change in their religious environments.

TRIGGER WARNING: suicide, conversion therapy
CONTENT WARNING: sexual references

SPECIAL FEATURE

Short documentary film screening of *Periphery* (28 minutes)
by Sara Yacobi-Harris

Content Warning: brief language

Monday, February 27 | 7:30pm ET | Virtual

Join for a discussion with film director Rabbi Mordechai Vardi and
Rabbi Steven Greenberg, Founding Director of Eshel.

Presenting Partner: Cincinnati Hillel

FILM EXTRAS

From the Director

The attitude towards LGBT people is a challenge of accepting the different, in the most extreme sense, because it concerns our sexuality of us all. My two daughters went out on dates with devout gay yeshiva boys.

My experience with my students who got married and then came out of the closet and divorced led me to make this film, especially in light of the fact that my two daughters went out with religious gays.

The big innovation I found is the disaster of the women who married gays. In many cases their lives were ruined. They lost confidence in their femininity and lost the belief that they could bring a man a sexual attraction towards them. Many times they have children and have difficulty finding a religious partner who will agree to raise with them children whose father is gay. They can get stuck for many years after divorce without a relationship.

I want to bring their voice to the people that society and the religious environment have caused them to marry in the opposite way by nature, with a partner who cannot give them what they really need, neither physically nor emotionally. And children growing up into a distorted family system.

Although the film deals with Orthodox Jewish society, it is

a universal theme, because in all religions around the world same-sex marriage is forbidden, and all over the world LGBT people try to disguise their identity by "normative marriage."



Rabbi Mordechai Vardi
Director/Producer

Mordechai Vardi graduated with a Master's degree in Film and Television from Tel Aviv University. He is an Israeli writer-director best known for his work on documentaries and feature films for TV. He is a peace activist and a member of the "ROOTS" organization, and was the head of the Screenwriting department at the Ma'aleh Film School for 20 years.




Rabbi Steven Greenberg
Speaker

Steven Greenberg is an Orthodox rabbi, ordained at Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. Early in his career he served as a senior educator for the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership (CLAL), a think tank and

training institute where he worked as an educator, curriculum writer, lecturer and consultant on a wide variety of cutting edge projects on ethics, environment, social justice and communal leadership. Steve is the first openly gay Orthodox rabbi and a founder of the Jerusalem Open House, the Holy City's LGBT community center. In 2001 Steve appeared in the documentary, *Trembling Before G-d*, and joined with the filmmaker to create a worldwide outreach project conducting over 500 post-screening community dialogues all over the world. In 2004 he finished a decade long project, a book entitled, *Wrestling with God and Men: Homosexuality in the Jewish Tradition* (University of Wisconsin Press), which explores biblical, rabbinic, medieval and contemporary Jewish responses to same-sex relationships, for which

he won the Koret Jewish Book Award for Philosophy and Thought. Rabbi Greenberg is presently the Founding Director of Eshel, a support, education and advocacy organization for LGBT+ Orthodox Jews and their families. He lives with his partner, Steven Goldstein, and their daughter, Amalia, in Boston.



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SHORT FILM: *Periphery*



2021 · Short Documentary
28 minutes · English · Sara Yacobi-Harris

Periphery is an evocative short documentary that explores ethnic diversity in the Jewish community in Canada through dance, poetry, and personal narratives. Following 10 Jews of Black/African, Korean, Iraqi, Indian, and South American ancestry, the film challenges perceptions of who is a Jew, exploring ideas of representation, intersectionality, race, and sexuality. *Periphery* invites us to appreciate the richness of Jewish identity and cultural expression while also illustrating what it feels like to grapple with a sense of belonging and to seek recognition within one's own ethnic community.

CONTENT WARNING: brief language

FILM EXTRAS

From the Director

As a Black and Jewish woman, I have experienced the tug and pull of straddling multiple identities my entire life. Grappling with wanting to feel Black *enough* and Jewish *enough*, I turned to telling stories about the ways other Jewish people of colour seek rootedness in their identity and find a sense of belonging. Through this pursuit, I have not only come to a place of accepting and celebrating the inherent complexities of my identities, I have also witnessed other Jewish and non-Jewish people gain a deeper understanding of how diverse Jewish people truly are.

Following the murder of George Floyd in May 2020 and the global racial reckoning that has been taking place, there was an urgent

desire for multicultural Jewish stories to take centre stage in both Canadian and American Jewish spaces. Community wide dialogue ensued about anti-Black racism, where Black Jews shared their experiences of racism and discrimination within Jewish spaces. Seeking dignity, recognition, and fulfillment within Jewish community life, one of the many questions the community discussed was: How do we transform Jewish community spaces into places where all those seeking to claim their Jewishness feel welcome and safe to do so? My hope is that *Periphery* is another resource in the pursuit of equity and a vision for what it looks like to self-actualize while rooted firmly in our ethnic identities.

Periphery is my second film about multicultural Jewish identity. The film is a space where the voices of 10 Jewish people share their Jewishness with candor and pride while integrating other aspects of their intersectional identities. This film seeks to celebrate the beauty that is created when we allow people to show up in all their identities and affinities without judgment or prescription of what a Jewish person or story looks like. At the intersections of racism and antisemitism and in an increasingly polarizing social and political climate, *Periphery* is an important reminder of what happens when seemingly opposing ethnicities and cultures collide, and the strength of love and community to combat hate.



Sara Yacobi-Harris
Director/Producer

Sara Yacobi-Harris is a multidisciplinary artist, filmmaker, media professional and community organizer. Sara has been making films since 2016 with a particular interest in exploring and capturing intersectional identity and belonging using spoken word, movement and dance as forms of expression. In 2017, Sara produced and directed *Who is a Jew?*, a documentary exploring the cultural experiences of Black Jews and Jews of Colour in Toronto.

In partnership with the Ontario Jewish Archives and No Silence on Race (a non-profit she founded), Sara directed and produced *Periphery*, a new short film and portrait series, giving voice to the rich ethno-racial diversity that exists within the Ontario Jewish community. She is currently in post-production on an experimental dance film. Sara has worked at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) and CBC's unscripted department. She holds a Masters of Education (M.Ed) in Social Justice Education from the University of Toronto.

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Closing Film



Wednesday, March 1

7:30pm ET

In-Person at Union Terminal

2022 · Drama

115 minutes · French · Fred Cavayé

PARIS 1941. François Mercier is an ordinary man whose only goal is to start a family with Blanche, the woman he loves. François works for Mr. Haffmann, a talented Jewish jeweler. Under the German occupation, the employer and employee are forced to strike a deal which, over the following months, will upend the fate of all concerned.

CONTENT WARNING: mild nudity, sexual violence

SPECIAL FEATURE

Ticket includes a closing night dessert reception.

*Presenting Partner: The Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust
& Humanity Center*

FILM EXTRAS

From the Director

Excerpted from an interview with Fred Cavayé

Q: How did the idea of adapting Jean-Philippe Daguerre's play come about?

Jean-Philippe Daguerre has been a friend for over 20 years. I didn't want to read the play before seeing it, so I'd react spontaneously like the rest of the audience. A mutual friend had given me a quick plot summary, and I somehow imagined the play tackled issues that I myself had wanted to treat for a while: showing the "bad guys" under the Occupation. Lots of movies are about the heroes, the Resistance, which is normal. But they rarely depict collaborators, or people who turned in their neighbors out of pure opportunism. How can a normal person become a monster, not by ideology, but by greed or something like that? So, I saw the play and realized I'd imagined something different! The play is wonderful, but I wanted to take it in another direction. Jean-Philippe let me take all the liberties I wanted to. He told me, jokingly, that he only adapted dead writers so they wouldn't drive him crazy! And so, I kept the starting premise of *Farewell Mister Haffmann* and took the characters in different directions, especially François.

Q: The shoot abruptly shut down during the lockdown in 2020.

What was the impact on the film?

We only had two weeks out of ten to go, so it wasn't that big a deal. The real problem was that we had extras in all the scenes we had left to shoot...But there was a bright side to the constraints. I thought about shooting the roundup with the children and all the atrocities we've already seen. But how? So, I had the idea of showing only what happened afterwards: an empty neighborhood, some belongings scattered in the street...In the end I found this alternative more powerful.

Q: It brought you closer to the "one-set" aspect of the play?

Absolutely, but it wasn't intentional! When I started adapting the play, I wrote scenes in train stations, neighbors talking, street life...I had to reduce them because of the lockdown, but the truth is, I realized the footage was more compelling when we remained on the characters. I felt the same thing in the editing room, and I end[ed] up cutting scenes we'd shot. We had to stay with the main characters. We had to suggest the outside world without showing it.

Q: Were you surprised by the relationship French people have with that period?

Even if the film takes place in 1942, with that historical context, the heart of the film is elsewhere. We could transpose it to present-day Calais with a migrant hidden in a basement. Showing how a man becomes a monster is timeless. It's happened before, it's happening now and careful, because it will happen again.



American director Paul Haggis remade the film in 2010 as *The Next Three Days*, which raised Cavayé's profile in the United States. He is also known for *Point Blank* (2010).

Fred Cavayé

Director/Co-Writer

Fred Cavayé (1967, France) is a French director born in Rennes. He first worked as a photographer in the fashion world. Cavayé has directed several films that won various awards. His first short film *J* (2000) was both a critical and commercial hit and won him the Jury Prize at the Arcipelago Short Film Festival in Rome. His first feature film, *Anything for Her* (2008), starred Diane Kruger and established him as one of the hottest new directors in France.



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Aaron Weiner - Chair

It is an honor to serve as the Chair of the Jewish & Israeli Film Festival this year. I have been an avid supporter of the festival for many years and was thrilled to be invited on the committee in 2020. Planning a film festival during a global pandemic in the 2021 and 2022 seasons presented some challenges along the way. However, with the dedication of the committee and the amazing support from our JCC staff partner, Frannie Kahan, we delivered. It was very rewarding to be able to provide connection and content to our community during a time of isolation when it was so needed. I am so excited to be in person again for select films this season! I always appreciate the diverse and enriching content the festival affords and how it connects our community by honoring our past and providing hope for the future through the art of film. This year will be no exception! The selections are spectacular. As a child of a Holocaust survivor, I am particularly keyed into our Holocaust themed films which are always an important and integral aspect of the festival. When I am not reviewing films, I am a full-time realtor as my profession. I am a native Cincinnati and reside in Clifton with my dogs Findlay and Gigi.

Marcie Bachrach

I care deeply about our community and I am an avid volunteer. Working with the Jewish & Israeli Film Festival committee is one of my favorites. It is thought provoking and educational, and I enjoy viewing and critiquing so many films. This year, I am excited about our hybrid format, in person and online. I hope to see you at the movies!

Lauren Bowen

It is a true blessing to serve on the film festival committee. Ten years ago, I moved to the Cincinnati area for a job opportunity. One of the first events I attended as a Cincinnati transplant was the 2013 Jewish & Israeli Film Festival. It cut through the homesickness and connected me with amazing friends. I serve, hoping the festival and the array of interesting films will bring a much-needed sense of community and warmth to someone during the cold, dark winter months. Just as it did for me when I attended my first film at the Esquire on a snowy February evening in 2013.

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. *Farewell Mister Haffmann* was my favorite film this season, due to its compelling storyline, artistic visuals set in Paris during the Holocaust, and the amazing acting of the cast.

Evan Gildenblatt

I've attended the Jewish & Israeli Film Festival since I was a kid, so it seemed only natural to join the Film Festival Committee when an opportunity arose. Films can be such wonderful windows into other worlds and I love seeing the rich variety of stories that we have the chance to introduce to our community. I hope you'll enjoy these films as much as I did!

Sam Greene

It has been an exciting year planning the return of an in-person film festival, and being part of the committee for a second year. I think the committee has put together an excellent lineup of films to share with the community this year and I had a great time previewing them at home with my wife, Karen, as we were joined this year by our first baby, Gideon. This year's film lineup covers a wide range of perspectives, including some that hit close to home for me, especially *1341 Frames of Love and War* which I related to closely as a photojournalist. I look forward to seeing everyone at the festival this year, and enjoying some of these films in person with our community.

Cantor Alane Katzew

By far, my favorite part of volunteering on the JIFF committee is the opportunity to view so many Jewish films. Each film provides a lens to learn about Jewish cinema around the world. This year, after screening short film *Polonsky*, I was lucky enough to visit the Tel Aviv Art Museum and view a special exhibition dedicated to David Polonsky's artistic works. He is a wonderful example of successful immigration and integration into Israeli society, and a source of pride to our people.

Margie Kessel

This is my second year serving on the Film Festival Committee. I have found the potential films entertaining, compelling, educational and thought provoking. We are excited to share such an exciting lineup of films this year!

Amy Klein

One of my favorite films this year is *Farewell Mister Haffmann* — our closing night film. This thriller addresses complex interpersonal relationships of a trio of characters in a time when the world is going crazy — Paris 1941. This excellently acted and directed film left me wondering what my own actions would be — or what I would like them to be — if I were thrown into such a time of chaos.

Stacey Schimberg

Film has always been a passion of mine and being a part of the film festival committee enables me to share my passion with the community. I love how the film festival brings the community together to share a common experience. I always feel a sense of excitement while seeing, hearing, and discussing the community's reactions to the films that we collectively curate each year. One of my favorite films this year was a rom-com, *One More Story*. I loved how the humor and nuances really translated across the languages in this film. There are so many other wonderful selections in this year's festival! I hope you love the films, too!

David Schmerler

This has been my first year serving on the JCC Jewish & Israeli Film Festival committee and it has been an honor and a pleasure. The films screened were thought provoking such as the Israeli short film drama *White Eye* and heartwarming such as the Israeli romantic comedy *One More Story*. We were brought together and had a lot of fun screening and discussing all the top final films, and we hope these are even more fun for you to watch as they are engaging.

Sharon Spiegel

The JIFF is an amazing opportunity within our community to bring "Israel" alive and introduce important topics of Jewish interest to our community. Making connections and opening discussion through the common experience of film is exceptionally important in these times. I am excited to be a part of this committee that works diligently to bring a broad variety of the best films to our community. Enjoy the films!

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 fifth year on the Committee, and each year has posed different challenges in selecting interesting and challenging films. As always, our discussions are robust. I'm not generally a big comedy fan, but for the first time, my favorite film was an Israeli comedy, *One More Story*. It is a bittersweet look at the process of finding love. I hope our audience enjoys it the way I did.

Brian Sugerman

Films have always been an important part of my life. I remember fondly watching movies as a family growing up with my parents and siblings, and sharing such emotions as happiness, sadness, fear, and even some anger. *Forrest Gump* once said, from one of my all-time favorite films, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." So get your popcorn and favorite snack and relax, because there are some amazing films in this year's festival that I am honored for you all to watch! I am blessed to be able to serve on this wonderful committee, as it has allowed me to share my passion for cinematography and bring incredible films to this wonderful Festival.

Tara Vigran

This is my second year on the Film Festival Committee and I believe it's going to be another great year for our community! I have attended this event in years past and feel fortunate to be among my peers to help select an array of diverse film options for the 2023 Festival. I consider myself a huge movie buff and have enjoyed all the viewing that went on this summer to provide our selection. I hope you enjoy this year's community wide event either in person or virtually!

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- Waldman & Company CPA's
- Weil Kahn Funeral Home

ACTOR

- Linda & Andrew Berger
- Jennifer & Eric Dauer
- Shelly Gerson & Jeff Zipkin
 - Beth & Louis Guttman
 - Penina Frankel
 - David C. Harris
- Cantor Alane S. and Rabbi Jan D. Katzew
 - Amy Klein
- Sue Price
- Cynthia & Bob Rosen
- Anna & Craig Sarembock
- Stacey & David Schimberg
 - Paul Spitz
- Rabbi Elena Stein
- Jan & Maury White
- Holly & Josh Wolfson

FRIEND

- Sara & Richard Behrman
- Marci & Gary Blachman
- Bonnie & Darryl Dick
- Claire & Alan Eichner
- Diana & Henry Fenichel
 - Carol Friedman
 - Julie Glazer
- Jan Goldstein & Charles Frank
- Karen & Richard Goodman
 - Lois & Jeff Gushin
 - Lauren & Seth Guttman
- Rabbi Shena & Brian Jaffee
- Dan Kanter & Mary Sutton
 - Marcy & Mark Kanter
 - Julie & Rick Kantor
 - Arlene & Bill Katz
- Gerry & Marvin Kraus
- Cissy & Bob Lenobel
- Ernesto & Rini Levy
- Diane Oestreicher
- Molly & Les Polasky
- Joshua M. Rothstein
- Martha & Lee Schimberg
 - David Schmerler
- Amy Schur & Steve Albert
- Debbie Friedman & Joe Segal
 - Nancy & Don Seltz
 - Susan & David Smith
- Sharon & Walter Spiegel
- Debra & Michael Steinbuch
 - Tara & Ross Vigran
- Jeanne Weiland & Jay Moskovitz
- Debbie & Dick Westheimer
 - Erin & David Wish
- Felicia Zakem & Ken Heldman

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- The Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center
- Cincinnati Skirball Museum and Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion
- Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati – Guardians and Friends
- Jewish Family Service
- Jewish Federation of Cincinnati – Silver Circle Society and Create Your Jewish Legacy
- Jewish Federation of Cincinnati – Jewish Community Relations Council
- Jewish Federation of Cincinnati – Young Adult Division
- Jewish Fertility Foundation
- Jewish Home of Cincinnati
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FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

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- Lauren Bowen
- Alison Caller
- Evan Gildenblatt
- Sam Greene
- Cantor Alane Katzew
- Margie Kessel
- Amy Klein
- Stacey Schimberg
- David Schmerler
- Sharon Spiegel
 - Paul Spitz
- Terry Stransky
- Brian Sugerman
- Tara Vigran

This year's Film Festival speakers are supported by the 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."



MAYERSON JCC
of Cincinnati



Jewish Foundation
of Cincinnati
INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY



JEWISH
FEDERATION
CINCINNATI

VENUE AND PARKING INFORMATION

20th Century Theater
3021 Madison Road
Cincinnati, OH 45209

There is nearby street parking available. Additionally, 20th Century Theater has agreements with neighborhood businesses near the venue: parking behind Oakley Pub on the gravel lot and paved parking marked with the 20th Century logo is available. Clepper Funeral Home parking lot can be used. Hair Inc. has a small lot available for parking.

Note: Those with mobility issues can park in the 20th Century Theater lot, first come first served.



Mariemont Theatre
6906 Wooster Pike
Cincinnati, OH 45227

There is a small parking lot in front of the building. Additional parking is located behind the theatre. Across the street in the Comey & Shepherd Realtors lot after 5pm parking is available, courtesy of Comey & Shepherd Realtors.

Cincinnati Skirball Museum
Mayerson Hall
HUC-JIR
3101 Clifton Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45220

Mayerson JCC
Amberley Room
8485 Ridge Road
Cincinnati, OH 45236

Union Terminal
Reakirt Auditorium
1301 Western Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 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 Union Terminal parking lot and front entrance at the beginning and end of the closing night event.

The 2023 Festival presents a hybrid lineup with each film offered in-person only or virtual only to allow for viewing in community or from the comfort of your home. There are six in-person and five virtual film offerings. The festival offers virtual only film showings and companion special features with 48-hour watch availability. Please note the specific geographic regions in which each virtual film is available. The festival offers in-person only film showings and companion special features. Please note the specific venue at which each in-person event will take place. Film ticket includes access to film screening and companion special feature, if scheduled.

Details as of 12/19/2022.

TICKET PRICES

Additional processing fees apply.

Opening Night Ticket

J Member: \$36 | Public: \$43

Individual Ticket

J Member: \$10 | Public: \$13

Closing Ticket

J Member: \$18 | Public: \$21

Festival Pass

J Member: \$130 | Public: \$160

Admission to all festival events, including in-person and virtual offerings, opening and closing nights. Non-transferable.

Limited tickets and passes available. Purchase early! First come, first served based on availability.

WATCH TRAILERS & BUY TICKETS

MayersonJCC.org/**Film**

TECHNOLOGY QUESTIONS

For technology troubleshooting and Eventive ticketing and virtual platform support, please visit watch.eventive.org/help

GENERAL QUESTIONS

For Festival questions and information, please contact Arts@MayersonJCC.org

We strive to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage fully. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact Inclusion@MayersonJCC.org

The Mayerson JCC offers need-based financial assistance in an effort to make JCC programming accessible. Contact Membership@MayersonJCC.org to apply.

The mission of the Mayerson JCC Jewish & Israeli Film Festival is to educate, engage, and create connections within the Jewish community and beyond with the broader Cincinnati community. The Festival presents quality films that broaden and challenge perspectives, entertain, and appeal to a wide audience base. The views and opinions expressed in the films and special features in the Festival are those of the filmmakers, speakers, or creators. They do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Mayerson JCC, Festival Committee, staff, board, sponsors, or volunteers.

JCC STAFF CREDITS

Frances Kahan - Director of Cultural Arts & Engagement

Rick Lefton - Director of Development

Holly Wolfson - Chief Program Officer

Ellen Daniel - Marketing Director

David Bushle - Senior Graphic Designer

Melissa Meisman - Graphic Designer

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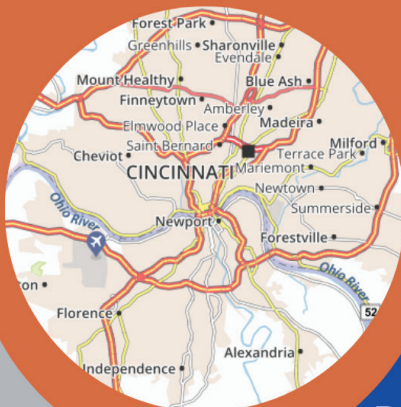
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MAY 22, 2023

Camp at the J

June 12 - August 11, 2023

Weekly options available!

Our 9-week traditional camp brings all the fun, friends, adventures, and tradition in a safe and supportive environment.

Break Camps

When school is out, the J is in! We offer School Break Camps and Snow Day Camps when many area schools are not in session. Bring the kids for a fun day of swimming, sports, arts and crafts, and more! Don't forget to pack a swimsuit, lunch, and a towel!

March 13 - 17

March 20 - 24

March 27 - 31

April 5

April 10

April 11

April 14

**CAMP
AT THE J**



LEARN MORE & REGISTER AT

MayersonJCC.org/Camp

Mazel Tov to Aaron Weiner,
Frances Kahan And the entire
Film Festival Committee for an
amazing Mayerson JCC
Jewish & Israeli Film Festival

Evelyn & Marc Fisher

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

Mazel Tov to the JCC staff and
Jewish & Israeli Film Festival
Committee for 36 Years of
great films!

Aimee & Ian Guttman

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

The Film Festival brings community together like no other event. How exciting it is that many of the screenings will be back in-person this year and have the opportunity to connect directly as a community as well as continue to reach a broader audience through virtual viewings! A huge thank you to the entire Film Festival Committee and JCC staff for producing this amazing Festival and a special thanks to the sponsors for all of the generous support!

Lara & Ronnen Isakov and Family

Many thanks to the JCC's Film Festival Committee and staff who make this amazing event possible each and every year! It's great to be back together, in person, enjoying some wonderful films!

Jen & John Stein

Fall in love with the J!

Join in February for 75% off the enrollment fee and get your 6th month* free.

Join by 2/28/2023. May not have been a member in the last 15 months.

**Free month of membership in July 2023.*



LEARN MORE AT

MayersonJCC.org





..... MAYERSON JCC

JEWISH & ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL

..... 2023 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						JAN 28 OPENING NIGHT One More Story 7:30pm 20th Century Theater
JAN 29 The Conference VIRTUAL Starts 7:30pm	JAN 30 VIRTUAL DISCUSSION 7:30pm	JAN 31 Ends 7:30PM	FEB 1	FEB 2 On This Happy Note + SHORT FILM Polonsky 7:30pm Mariemont Theatre	FEB 3	FEB 4
FEB 5 Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin + DISCUSSION 3pm Mariemont Theatre	FEB 6 Schächten – A Retribution VIRTUAL Starts 7:30pm	FEB 7	FEB 8	FEB 9	FEB 10	FEB 11
FEB 12	FEB 13 1341 Frames of Love and War + DISCUSSION 7:30pm Cincinnati Skirball Museum	FEB 14	FEB 15 Greener Pastures + SHORT FILM White Eye VIRTUAL Starts 7:30pm	FEB 16	FEB 17	FEB 18
FEB 19 Rose + DISCUSSION 3pm Mayerson JCC	FEB 20	FEB 21 Not a Hero VIRTUAL Starts 7:30pm	FEB 22 VIRTUAL DISCUSSION 7:30pm	FEB 23	FEB 24	FEB 25
FEB 26 Marry Me However + SHORT FILM Periphery VIRTUAL Starts 7:30pm	FEB 27 VIRTUAL DISCUSSION 7:30pm	FEB 28	MAR 1 CLOSING NIGHT FAREWELL MISTER HAFMANN 7:30pm Union Terminal			

 In-Person Screening  Virtual Screening

WATCH TRAILERS & BUY TICKETS
MayersonJCC.org/Film



MAYERSON JCC
of Cincinnati