



jewish film institute
presents

SAN FRANCISCO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL **39**

July 18–28
san francisco

July 20–25
palo alto

July 25–aug 1
albany

aug 2–4
oakland

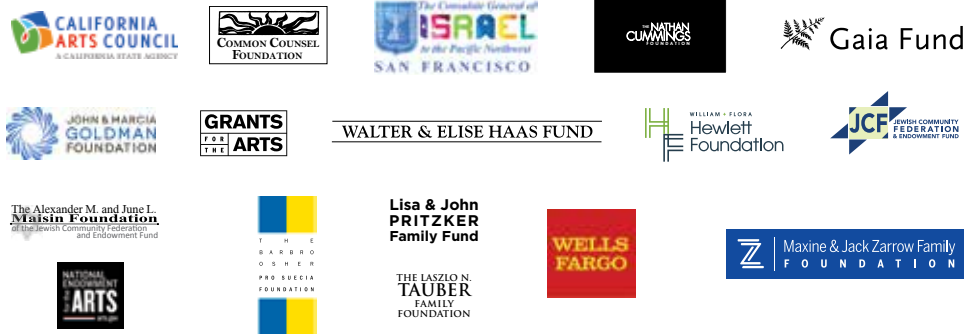
aug 2–4
san rafael

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SAN FRANCISCO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL 39



The Jewish Film Institute welcomes you to the 39th San Francisco Jewish Film Festival!

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As we celebrate our 39th year, it is an inspiring time to be part of the global film culture and the Jewish Film Institute is participating in that conversation. The changes of the past few years have resulted in the incredible diversity of films and filmmakers that are reflected in this year's lineup at the first and still the largest Jewish Film Festival. We are committed to discovering and supporting films and filmmakers that expand understanding of Jewish life and we deeply believe in the power of film to illuminate Jewish experience.

JFI is now an official partner of the Sundance Film Institute, an Academy Award® qualifying festival, and a home to the only **Filmmaker Residency** in the country devoted to supporting filmmakers working with Jewish themes. You are a large part of our story as you asked for access to the highest quality content and we responded with **JFI on Demand** and our **Online Shorts** series, with 2.3 million views worldwide.

As we head into our 40th anniversary year in 2020, communities have become more polarized, anti-Semitism is on the rise and artists are creating groundbreaking work to interpret our contemporary landscape. We've designed this year's festival to encourage collectively coming together to engage with the filmmakers and guests in intimate interviews, parties, panels, and conversation over fine food and drink. We wish for you a dynamic and transformative Festival experience. We hope that these 18 days of world-class cinema will bring many opportunities for open communication, connection and celebration.

L'chaim!



Lexi Leban,
 Executive Director, Jewish Film Institute

HerStory If She Can See It, She Can Be It

HerStory programs are generously supported by the San Francisco Jewish Women's Fund, a program of the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund

Panel and Conversation, Sunday July 28 | 1:45 PM
spark arts gallery, 4229 18th St.

This event is the first of a continuing series.

The conversation surrounding the value of a film is not always an inclusive one. The vast majority of film critics are white men and the imprimatur of the reviewer can determine who sees a film and how a film is received, which ultimately impact its box office results.

Does the gender identity of the critic matter? How have women navigated their career paths in this male-dominated field? We will explore these questions and more in a panel discussion following the screening of *What She Said: The Art of Pauline Kael* (p.12), featuring the *New Yorker* film critic who was known for biting reviews that frequently went against the opinions of her contemporaries.



HerStory Selections

Before You Know It (p.20)

Dolce Fine Giornata (p.21)

Fig Tree (p.24)

Leona (p.27)

Made in Auschwitz:

The Untold Story of Block 10 (p.28)

What She Said: The Art of Pauline Kael (p.12)

ethiopian jews EJ

Desperately Seeking Israel



The Passengers

Falasha Jews of Ethiopian descent call themselves the House of Israel (Beta Israel) and claim descent from the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon. In 1977 Israeli officials decided that the Law of Return (aliyah) applied to them. This sidebar centers on three films, each with a unique perspective about the struggle of Ethiopians to make aliyah. In the stranger-than-fiction spy thriller *The Red Sea Diving Resort* (p.7), a derelict scuba resort in the Sudanese desert is operated by Mossad agents as a decoy for evacuating refugee Ethiopian Jews. In 1989 during the Ethiopian Civil War, a 16-year-old girl can either escape to Israel or stay with her boyfriend in the powerful drama *Fig Tree* (p.24). And in the emotional documentary *The Passengers* (p.28), two Ethiopian friends embark across the present day American landscape seeking support for the aliyah Israel promised them.

Take Action Day Social Justice Filmmakers Repair the World

Take Action Day is generously supported by Wells Fargo Foundation and the California Arts Council

Monday, July 22 | Castro Theatre

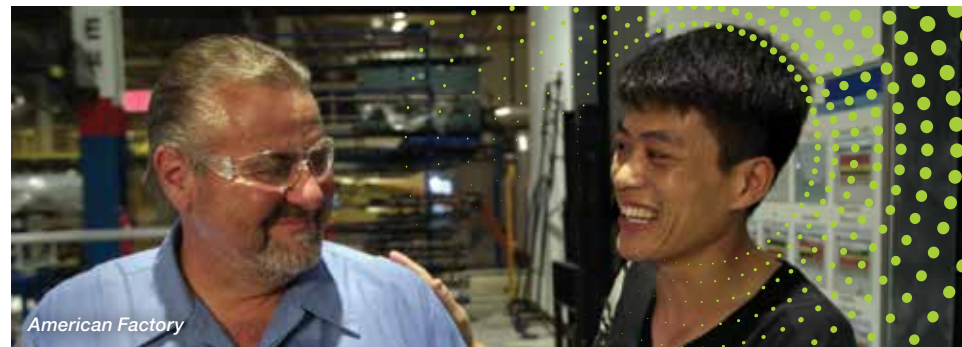
SFJFF39's annual Take Action Day is a full day lineup of impactful documentaries that exemplify the Jewish values embodied in *tikkun olam* which inspire us to repair the world with our actions. Each film on **Monday, July 22nd** at the **Castro Theatre** will be followed by dynamic discussions with attending filmmakers and community leaders that are making a difference, led by award-winning former JFI Filmmaker in Residence **Nico Oppen**.

This year's programs build connections within and beyond Jewish communities and prompt us to examine our own action and inaction. *American Muslim* (p.19) explores Muslim/Jewish alliances in the face of rising hate-based violence; *Refugee Lullaby* (p.29) reveals what results when one person is compelled to act because of his family history; *COOKED: Survival by Zip Code* (p.10) confronts the effects of climate change in a profoundly unequal world; and *American Factory* (p.19) observes what happens when a Chinese billionaire opens an auto glass company in a shuttered auto factory in Ohio.

Take Action Day facilitated by Nico Oppen



Nico Oppen is an Emmy®-nominated filmmaker who directed the feature documentary *Off and Running*. The film had a national broadcast on the PBS documentary series *POV* and an Audience Favorite at Tribeca. She received a Fulbright Fellowship to direct her next feature, *Visitor's Day/Día de Visita*. She was featured in *Filmmaker Magazine's* annual "25 New Faces of Independent Film." Most recently, Oppen directed and produced the *The F Word: A Foster-to-Adopt Story*, which was nominated for a Gotham Award for Breakthrough Series and named one of the Best Web Series of 2018 by *IndieWire Magazine*.



American Factory



American Muslim

Next Wave

JFI Next Wave programs are generously supported by the Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation

Next Wave Spotlight and Reception following *Safe Spaces* Saturday, July 29th | 10:30pm | Castro Mezzanine

SFJFF39's Next Wave selections cover a range of relevant issues, topics and conflicts, from a genre-bending family dramedy (*Before You Know It*), to a modern Mexico City twist on tales of forbidden love (*Leona*), to the repercussions faced by a young professor after an uncomfortable conversation in the modern college classroom (*Safe Spaces*), to a portrait of the talented rising star, Anton Yelchin, whose life was tragically cut short (*Love, Antosha*).

See any and all of our Next Wave selections, as well as the rest of the eclectic SFJFF lineup, for only \$45! The JFI Next Wave membership (ages 35 and under) include a Festival pass that offers tremendous access to everything on offer at SFJFF as well as special events, film screenings, artist talks and more throughout the year.

Visit sfjff.org/next-wave to start experiencing film differently today.

Next Wave Selections

- Safe Spaces* (Next Wave Spotlight) (p.11)
- Abe* (p.16)
- Adam* (p.18)
- Before You Know It* (p.20)
- The Dancing Dogs of Dombrova* (p.21)
- Give Me Liberty* (p.24)

- Jews in Shorts: Documentaries* (p.33)
- Jews in Shorts: Israeli Narratives* (p.33)
- Latter Day Jew* (p.27)
- Leona* (p.27)
- Love, Antosha* (p.28)
- This is Personal* (p.31)



This is Personal: Intersectional Identity and the Women's March



Sunday, July 21 | 3:30 PM
Spark Arts | 4229 18th Street, San Francisco
Panel and Conversation facilitated by Ilana Kaufman,
Director of the Jews of Color Field Building Initiative

This is Personal provokes the questions: how are women differently impacted by race, religion, sexual and gender identity and how did this play out in the Women's March following the 2016 election? How do people work together when they disagree? Join the conversation as a diverse panel of Jewish Women of Color lead the post-film conversation.

Ilana Kaufman is the Director of the Jews of Color Field Building Initiative. She has been featured in the *Jewish Times of America* and has published articles in *The Forward*, *eJewish Philanthropy* and *The Foundation Review*. Kaufman is also a nationally regarded thought leader on the importance of grappling at the intersection of Jewish communities, Jewish identity, and racial justice, and has been featured on NPR's *All Things Considered* and *Code Switch*.

sfjff39 Community Shabbat Dinner

Friday, July 19 | 6:00 PM | City Hall



Join the Jewish Film Institute Staff and Board in welcoming the artists and filmmakers celebrated in this year's line up to San Francisco at the SFJFF39 Community Shabbat Dinner! Enjoy a communal candle lighting ceremony and break challah with other film lovers in the stunning North Light Court at San Francisco City Hall. This opening weekend event is open to community members of all ages.

sfjff39 community shabbat dinner

Friday, July 19
6:00 PM Reception | 7:00 PM Candle Lighting & Dinner
City Hall North Light Court | 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco
\$125 Members | \$135 General Public
\$1250 Table of 10

Tickets can be purchased online at sfjff.org/shabbat or contact Hayleigh Thompson, Development Coordinator at hthompson@jfi.org to discuss hosting a table. Refreshments, service, and decor provided by Melon's Catering & Events and Grand Bakery.

Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles



Castro **Thursday, July 18** **6:30 PM** **WEST COAST PREMIERE**
1X ONLY **Max Lewkowicz, USA, 2019, 90 minutes, English**
 Sponsored by Steven and Bunny Fayne

The jaunty tune of the musical's opening strains, played on a plaintive fiddle, seems like a call from an ancient, long-lost Yiddish world. The songs feel as if they've always been here ("If I Were a Rich Man," "Sunrise, Sunset," "Tradition!"). The shtetl of Anatevka has come to stand in for every homeland left behind, and Teyve the milkman for every father of a restless new generation of children. That's the power of the 1964 Broadway musical **Fiddler on the Roof**—a theatrical phenomenon which is now the subject of a joyous documentary revealing the creative origins and long-lasting cultural impact of a show that not only held the record, for 10 years, as the longest-running musical on Broadway, but also became, for many, the very definition of the Eastern European Jewish experience. As Max Lewkowicz's captivating, clip-filled film makes clear, **Fiddler on the Roof**, despite its broad appeal, was the product of a very specific team of Jewish American musical theater artists. Composer Jerry Bock and lyricist Sheldon Harnick (**Fiorello!**, **She Loves Me**) teamed up with book writer Joe Stein and the brilliant director/choreographer Jerome Robbins (né Rabinowitz, **West Side Story**) to breathe theatrical energy into Sholom Aleichem's rueful, funny, turn-of-the-century tales of Russian Jewish life. The documentary is chock full of insightful interviews with the musical's creators, performance clips from productions around the world (including the iconic film version and the current Yiddish-language adaptation that is taking New York by storm), and lively commentary from admirers like Stephen Sondheim, Itzhak Perlman and **Hamilton's** Lin-Manuel Miranda—a Puerto Rican who surprised his Dominican/Austrian bride with a rousing rendition of "To Life" at their wedding reception. Talk about crossover appeal—**Fiddler** has it in spades. —Peter L. Stein

Director Max Lewkowicz in person

The Red Sea Diving Resort

EJ



Castro **Sunday, July 28** **7:15 PM** **SNEAK PREVIEW**
1X ONLY **Gideon Raff, USA, 2019, 130 minutes, English**
 Sponsored by Nancy and Stephen Grand

Inspired by one of the most remarkable true life rescue missions ever, **The Red Sea Diving Resort** is the incredible story of a group of international agents and brave Ethiopians who in the early 80s used a deserted holiday retreat in Sudan as a front to smuggle thousands of refugees to Israel. Chris Evans plays Ari Kidron, the Mossad agent who leads the mission together with courageous local Kabede Bimro, played by Michael Kenneth Williams. Posing as naive European entrepreneurs, the team he leads take advantage of the Sudanese government's interest in expanding its feeble Ministry of Tourism to purchase a strategically located property along the Red Sea. Their plans are thrown for a loop, however, when real tourists begin arriving, expecting service. Director Gideon Raff—creator of the acclaimed Israeli series **Prisoners of War** and its American spin-off, **Homeland**—brings his signature pacing to the pulse-elevating scenes of intrigue, finding opportunities along the way to fill the mise-en-scene (from Mossad office headquarters to the kitschy scuba hotel) with sly references to the culture, politics, and distinctive aesthetics of its late '70s-early '80s setting. Finding more humor and adventure in the story than one would imagine possible given the high stakes of the drama, what resonates most strongly throughout **The Red Sea Diving Resort** is an indistinguishable pride in the sense of fraternity (the name of the Mossad's original mission was "Operation Brothers") between the Israeli and Ethiopian Jews, and the resourcefulness and bravery that bonds them together. The prestigious cast also includes Haley Bennett, Alessandro Nivola, Michiel Huisman, Chris Chalk, Greg Kinnear and Ben Kingsley. —Tien-Tien L. Jong

Note: Contains Graphic Violence

Director Gideon Raff in person

opening night bash

premier festival sponsor

Thursday, July 18 | 9:00 PM | 21+ older
 Contemporary Jewish Museum | 736 Mission Street, San Francisco
 Film & Party: \$65 Members | \$75 General Public
 Film Only: \$30 Members | \$35 General Public



Carry on the joy and celebration following the opening film **Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles** at the Contemporary Jewish Museum. Experience a wide variety of new nosh options from Oren's Hummus, L'Chaim Foods, Wise Sons, and Taste Catering. Indulge in other delights from Cinderella Bakery and Fairytale Brownies as we welcome our friends, fans, and family to the 39th San Francisco Jewish Film Festival!

closing night reception

Sunday, July 28 | following screening
 Castro Theatre Mezzanine, San Francisco
 \$22 Members | \$25 General Public

Join SFJFF39 in signing off on another engaging run at the iconic Castro Theatre! Following the riveting closing night film, SFJFF invites you to the mezzanine to partake in an assortment of food and drink provided by La Méditerranée as we transition the Festival to the East Bay and San Rafael.

Tel Aviv on Fire



| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CineArts | Wednesday, July 24 | 5:45 PM | BAY AREA PREMIERE |
| Castro | Thursday, July 25 | 6:10 PM | Sameh Zoabi , Luxembourg, Belgium, Israel, France, 2018, 97 minutes, Hebrew w/ English Subtitles |
| Albany Twin | Friday, July 26 | 6:25 PM | |
| Smith Rafael | Saturday, August 3 | 8:40 PM | Sponsored by Lela and Gerry Sarnat |

Brimming with humor and multiple plotlines, Sameh Zoabi's *Tel Aviv on Fire* relates the comic exploits of Salam, a Palestinian man who gets his big break as a writer on *Tel Aviv on Fire*, a popular television soap opera. The series follows the machinations of sultry Palestinian star Tala (Lubna Azabal, *Strangers* SFJFF 2008), who plays a Jewish character named Rachel, a fictional Palestinian spy during the 1967 Six-Day War. Salam starts out working as a lowly prop assistant in Uncle Bassam's television production company in Ramallah, but when the scriptwriter of the series suddenly leaves, Salam jumps at the chance to join the writing team. At first Salam struggles with writer's block and even calls his mother, a fan of the series, for ideas. Things get complicated when, on the way into Jerusalem, Salam is stopped at a checkpoint and commanding officer Assi turns out to be an aspiring writer himself. As Assi and Salam start working on the script together, each man jockeys to have his plotline come out ahead. Salam hopes that his newfound success will aid him in his efforts to win back his old love, Mariam (Maisa Abd Elhadi, *Personal Affairs*, SFJFF 2017), whom he jilted a few years earlier. The fact that she and everyone in the hospital where she works are addicted to *Tel Aviv on Fire*, can only help his cause. But life as a burgeoning screenwriter has unforeseen pressures, as Tala, Bassam, Salam's mother and Assi all have their own ideas about how the series should end. Ultimately, this biting satire with a stellar ensemble cast begs the question: Who controls the narrative of a script or, for that matter, of history? —Nancy K. Fishman

Orizzonti Award for Best Actor, Venice

Director Sameh Zoabi in person in San Francisco and Palo Alto

The Amazing Johnathan Documentary



| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| CineArts | Tuesday, July 23 | 6:00 PM | BAY AREA PREMIERE |
| Castro | Wednesday, July 24 | 6:20 PM | Ben Berman , USA, 2019, 91 minutes, English |
| Albany Twin | Thursday, August 1 | 6:10 PM | |
| Smith Rafael | Saturday, August 3 | 4:05 PM | |

Is it possible to make a truthful film when your subject is an unreliable performer addicted to drugs who makes his living through illusion and the art of deception? This is a key question raised in director Ben Berman's *I'm a Mitzvah*, SFJFF 2014) compelling meta-documentary portrait of Las Vegas magician and stand-up comic John Szeles, aka the Amazing Johnathan. The name of the film, *The Amazing Johnathan Documentary*, actually reads like a working title. Our curiosity draws us in. Are we now going to see a finished documentary or is it a work in progress? What begins as a conventional story about an entertainer with a terminal heart condition embarking on his final tour ends up as both a meditation on mortality and an exploration of documentary filmmaking with a subject who is elusive and unpredictable. Sprinkled throughout are interviews with Las Vegas luminaries "Weird Al" Yankovic, Penn Jillette, Judy Gold and yes, Carrot Top, who offer their personal reflections on their outlandish colleague. Since this is a film that depends on surprises, suffice it to say that there are several delightful and bizarre twists as the film appears to unravel. Yet the filmmaker masterfully resurrects it, turning narrative lemons into lemonade. In the process, he shares his own heartfelt personal loss while creating an incredibly fun, very provocative and highly entertaining documentary. —Jay Rosenblatt

Director Ben Berman in person in San Francisco

Freedom of Expression Award: Judith Helfand



Castro **Monday, July 22** **5:30 PM** Sponsored by Gale Mondry and Bruce Cohen

Judith Helfand is a force of nature. Singularly gifted as an artist/activist she is seemingly able to condense complex science, corporate greed and environmental injustice into highly personal films that entertain as well as inform. In *Healthy Baby Girl* (SFJFF 1997), Helfand reveals her exposure in-utero to the drug diethylstilbestrol (DES), offered to her mother to prevent miscarriage. Twenty-five years later Helfand was diagnosed with DES-related cervical cancer and had a radical hysterectomy. While healing at her parents' home her camera became her diary. The film was a sensation, launched at the Sundance Film Festival, it had a national PBS broadcast and won a prestigious Peabody Award, the journalistic equivalent of an Oscar. In 1997 the SF Jewish Film Festival featured this story of a young Jewish woman who, while coming to terms with loss was awakened to political activism. The stage was set for a film career devoted to environmental toxins, with a special Helfand twist: the toxic comedy. Helfand returned with *Blue Vinyl* (SFJFF 2001) and an action plan. Skeptical of her parents' decision to "re-side" their Long Island home with polyvinyl chloride (PVC), Helfand set out to discover the truth behind the potentially toxic effects of vinyl. Keeping herself as a character in the story made the film accessible, haimish, and funny—an intergenerational call to action. Helfand's activism goes hand-in-hand with her filmmaking. She co-founded Working Films, a non-profit that mentors filmmakers, NGOs and Foundations on the use of documentaries for social change. Her ties to San Francisco remain deep as the co-founder of Chicken and Egg Films, a much-needed source of funding to women filmmakers whose artful and innovative storytelling catalyze social change. —Janis Plotkin

Director Judith Helfand in conversation with award-winning filmmaker Nico Oppen in San Francisco

COOKED: Survival by Zip Code

TA



Castro **Monday, July 22** **5:30 PM**
CineArts **Wednesday, July 24** **3:00 PM**
Piedmont **Saturday, August 3** **11:45 AM**

Preceded by *Absolutely No Spitting*

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Judith Helfand, USA, 2019, 76 minutes, English
 In *COOKED*, Helfand brings her disarmingly quirky style of inquiry to the complex intersection between disaster preparedness and privilege. Investigating the 1995 Chicago heat wave which killed 739 people, Helfand asks: What if equal amount of our nations resources for disaster preparedness were allocated for unnatural disasters like poverty?

—Nancy K. Fishman

Director Judith Helfand in person in San Francisco and Palo Alto

Safe Spaces

NW



Castro **Saturday, July 20** **8:50 PM** **CALIFORNIA PREMIERE**
CineArts **Sunday, July 21** **6:10 PM** **Daniel Schechter**, USA, 2019, 93 minutes,
Albany Twin **Wednesday, July 31** **8:30 PM** English
Smith Rafael **Sunday, August 4** **6:30 PM** Next Wave programs are generously supported
 by Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation

What is considered appropriate speech today? Justin Long (*Dodgeball, He's Just Not That into You*) stars as Josh Cohen, a 38-year-old Brooklyn man-child who tries to find out. Just beginning his career as a creative writing professor, Josh hits a snag when a student, in light of #MeToo, takes offense at something he says in class. His very public reckoning, which occurs while his family is reeling from the declining health of his beloved grandmother, creates a candid, frank, sometimes painful and often humorous view on the comedy of errors that is coming-of-age (whatever that age may be) in an era of changing values. As Josh reckons with the fact that he's moving into an era where he is no longer in the vanguard, he and his siblings navigate the fact that their future—not to mention their present—is no longer as well-defined as they might have hoped and that success is always relative. A comedic take on the current climate, *Safe Spaces* proves that despite all the changes, having a loving family at your side can make any awkwardness at least slightly more bearable. The film also features classic standout performers like Fran Drescher (*The Nanny*) and Richard Schiff (*The West Wing*) as lovingly neurotic divorced parents alongside newcomers like LA comedian Kate Berlant (*Sorry to Bother You*). This is a classic depiction of age-old Jewish guilt and a New York City comedy through and through for the new generation. And, yes, there will be mentions of hashtags. —Maya Lekach

Director Daniel Schechter in person in San Francisco and Palo Alto

next wave spotlight reception

next wave is supported by:

Saturday, July 20 | following screening
Castro Mezzanine
 Admission limited to Next Wave Passholders



Following the film *Safe Spaces*, SFJFF Next Wave community members are invited to the lounge for snacks, Bay Area made House Kombucha bottles, and Tito's Handmade Vodka cocktails. Reflect on the current social climate, rising voices and exciting endeavors in Jewish cinema, or just schmooze and kibbitz with other festivalgoers on the Castro mezzanine!

What She Said: The Art of Pauline Kael

HS



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|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| CineArts | Saturday, July 20 | 4:00 PM | BAY AREA PREMIERE |
| Castro | Sunday, July 28 | 12:00 PM | Rob Garver , USA, 2019, 95 minutes, English |
| Piedmont | Sunday, August 4 | 4:05 PM | Sponsored by Nancy P. and Richard K. Robbins Family Foundation |

"Kicked in the ribs, the press says 'art' when 'ouch' would be more appropriate. . . . Movies are so rarely great art, that if we cannot appreciate great *trash*, we have very little reason to be interested in them." Formidable, contrarian, highly opinionated and frequently hilarious, Pauline Kael made her mark as the most important film writer of her generation. Born on a Petaluma chicken farm to Polish Jewish émigrés, Kael rose from her humble career start as a single mother reading reviews on Berkeley public radio to eventually becoming the most powerful and contentious critic in the country at the *New Yorker*. Yet even at the height of her success, Kael remained a perennial outsider to American popular culture, with her own complicated relationship to mainstream values and tastes. This captivating and creative doc filled with superb film clips shows us how the things Kael had to say in her reviews were never just about the movies, but also about sexism and class conflict, happiness and alienation, the hidden traps of American life and the seductions of celebrity and money. Featuring interviews with the exact people we want to hear talking about Kael (Paul Schrader, Molly Haskell, Kael's daughter Gina James and surprising home movie footage shot by Stan Brakhage), this endlessly entertaining portrait is as witty, sharp and complicated as its magnetic subject. —**Tien-Tien L. Jong**

herstory panel and conversation

Sunday, July 28 | 1:45 PM
Spark Arts | 4229 18th Street, San Francisco
This event is the first of a continuing series.

Head on over to Spark Arts Gallery following the film and join in the post-film conversation on feminism and film criticism. How do issues of equity and inclusion impact the field? Is the film industry leading the charge for change?

Picture of His Life



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|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Albany Twin | Thursday, July 25 | 6:30 PM | NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE |
| Castro | Sunday, July 28 | 2:15 PM | Dani Menkin, Yonatan Nir , Israel, 2019, 75 minutes, Hebrew w/ English Subtitles |
| Smith Rafael | Sunday, August 4 | 4:15 PM | Sponsored by Bonnie and Marty Tenenbaum Foundation |

Already world famous for his photographs, underwater still photographer Amos Nachoum is not satisfied. He seems to have lived a charmed life, having communed with sharks, killer whales and all sorts of underwater behemoths and survived. Jaffa-born Nachoum lives close to the Pacific Ocean in Northern California, but he's hardly ever there. For years he's been in continual motion, spending just a week or two at home before setting off on yet another expedition. In this fascinating portrait of a man possessed ("married to the ocean"), we learn what is behind the passion that drives him: his difficult childhood, his service in an elite Israeli commando unit in the bloody 1973 Yom Kippur War, experiences that combined to put him on a quest for inner peace. He calls himself a "soldier of Mother Nature" who is dedicated to "the beauty of life, rather than the misery." But there is one animal he has never photographed the way he wants to: the polar bear, a creature considered more dangerous than a giant shark. He wants to get the "picture of his life," a polar bear up close and personal, a task considered not only dangerous, but maybe impossible. Filmmakers Dani Menkin and Yonatan Nir follow Nachoum on his quest to the freezing Arctic waters, and we learn of the infinite patience and preparation that go into the making of his work. In the process, we understand why Nachoum feels that getting close to nature brings peace and joy.

—**Miguel Pendás**

Directors Dani Menkin and Yonatan Nir, producer Nancy Spielberg and subject Amos Nachoum in person in San Francisco and Albany. Director Dani Menkin in person in San Rafael.

east bay opening night

Thursday, July 25 | following screening
Albany Twin Theatre | 1115 Solano Avenue, Albany
\$22 Members | \$25 General Public

Continue adventuring above sea-level as SFJFF39 broadens its program to the East Bay. Hosted at the festival favorite Albany Twin Theatre, enjoy local treats from Saul's Deli and Pomella Oakland Catering to pair with Hagafen wine!

My Polish Honeymoon



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|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CineArts | Saturday, July 20 | 6:10 PM | WEST COAST PREMIERE |
| Castro | Tuesday, July 23 | 8:55 PM | Élise Otzenberger , France, 2018, 88 minutes, French w/ English Subtitles |
| Albany Twin | Tuesday, July 30 | 6:25 PM | |
| Smith Rafael | Sunday, August 4 | 11:45 AM | Sponsored by Diana Grand and Jon Holman |

What opens as a light romantic comedy transforms into a richly complex journey of self-discovery. Adam and Anna live the dream millennial Paris life: cute apartment, adorable baby and parents willing to babysit so they can finally have their honeymoon. They're headed to Poland, partly for a ceremony to commemorate Adam's grandfather's Jewish village, destroyed in the war. But before they can leave, it's clear the pair have some issues. Control issues for starters. When Anna's parents arrive, she tries fruitlessly to sell them on her color-coded list of activities and foods for their son. After they land, Anna's emotional state unravels. As the pair explore the country, it's revealed that she, like so many descendants of Holocaust survivors, has vainly sought to trace her family's old country Jewish roots. Not only has all trace of her forbears been erased, but her own relations refused to talk about the Shoah, a multigenerational silence for which Anna ferociously blames her mother. Anna finally uncovers evidence of her Polish roots. The film takes on extraordinary dimension as she and her husband grapple not just with the past, but with present-day anti-Semitism masked as celebration of Jewish culture. Heartbreak meets with hope as they find their way back home, and for Anna, towards a new understanding.

—Emily Kaiser Thelin

Director Élise Otzenberger in person in Palo Alto and San Francisco

Curtiz



| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Castro | Saturday, July 20 | 6:00 PM | BAY AREA PREMIERE |
| CineArts | Wednesday, July 24 | 8:30 PM | Tamás Topolánszky , Hungary, 2018, 98 minutes, English |
| Albany Twin | Saturday, July 27 | 6:40 PM | Sponsored by Ullendorff Memorial Foundation |

Michael Curtiz directed some of the most well-known films of the 20th century. The Hungarian native, perhaps the most underrated figure in Hollywood history, directed nearly 200 films in his lifetime. In this noir-ish dramatization of the making of his most famous film, *Casablanca*, for which he won the Oscar for Best Director, Curtiz is shown as a man in quiet turmoil. As he was filming—in a real-life story that parallels that of the movie—Curtiz was struggling to save relatives caught up in the Nazi dragnet of Jews. Bergman, Bogart, Conrad Veidt and crackerjack dialogue writers the Epstein brothers come across as consummate professionals. But every story conference, every plot point, was plagued with conflict and disagreement. The Tinseltown bigwigs (with the exception of Curtiz's friend Hal Wallis) are shown as a gaggle of simpletons who made good movies in spite of themselves, thanks to people like Curtiz who deflected their inane story ideas. Ultimately Curtiz succeeded in getting his mother to the U.S. However, he could not rescue his sister, her husband or their three children, who were sent to Auschwitz. All that personal agony went into the making of *Casablanca*, imbuing the film with the bittersweet quality that, in World War II, characterized even a victory. —Miguel Pendás

Film Noir Foundation founder Eddie Muller in conversation with Curtiz biographer Alan K. Rode in San Francisco

noir city at the festival

Post-film conversation hosted by Eddie Muller

Saturday, July 20 | following screening | Castro Theatre

About the evening's host: As founder and president of the non-profit Film Noir Foundation, Eddie Muller has been instrumental in preserving America's noir heritage through the FNF's NOIR CITY film festivals. San Francisco's NOIR CITY is the largest retrospective of noir films in the world. Eddie also programs and hosts his own weekly TCM program Noir Alley.

presented in partnership with



Abe

NW



Castro Saturday, July 20 11:15 AM WEST COAST PREMIERE
Albany Twin Sunday, July 28 11:00 AM **Fernando Grostein Andrade**, USA, 2019, 85 minutes, English

To his mom's side of the family, he's Abraham. To his dad's, he's Ibrahim. Why can't everyone just call him Abe? Abe Solomon-Odeh (Noah Schnapp, *Stranger Things*) is a 12-year-old Brooklynite whose self-possession in the kitchen and confidence navigating New York City's subway system would make most grown-ups stop in their tracks. The child of an Israeli-American mother and a Palestinian-American father, Abe spends most of his time concocting new recipes and maintaining his food blog, which is frequented by admirers and school bullies alike. Yet while Abe is a master at mixing ingredients—his proudest accomplishment is having perfected the art of the ramen taco—he's at a loss when it comes to navigating the clash of cultures that forms his Jewish/Muslim family. His spiritual mother hopes to foster in her son a sense of reverence for his grandparents' cultural values, while Abe's father (*Succession*'s Arian Moayed) is impatient with all religion, period. There isn't a family dinner without the grandparents butting heads, and when it comes to the food, nothing is simple: How are you supposed to blow out your birthday candles when your grandma bakes you a cake frosted with your Arabic name and your grandpa (*Breaking Bad*'s Mark Margolis) expects you to dig into one in Hebrew? Since everyone is always arguing, no one notices when Abe slips out one night to a street fair to discover the culinary magic of a talented chef named Chico (Seu Jorge, *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*), whose Afro-Brazilian roots are as rich as Abe's. As Chico takes Abe under his wing, will Abe be able to take the lessons he learns in the kitchen to turn his own family's confusion into fusion? —Zöe Pollak

The Mamboniks



CineArts Sunday, July 21 4:05 PM BAY AREA PREMIERE
Castro Saturday, July 27 8:55 PM **Lex Gillespie**, USA, 2019, 90 minutes, English
Piedmont Saturday, August 3 4:30 PM Sponsored by The Alexander M. and June L. Maisin Foundation of the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund

"Tito Puente played at my wedding," says "Mambo Judie," with obvious pride. She is one of the mamboniks, the aging but ever upbeat Jewish aficionados of the Cuban dance craze of the 1950s. Judging by this affectionate documentary, they haven't lost their bounce as they talk about the effect the sexy Latin dance had on their youth. Cuban dance achieved worldwide popularity in the 1930s and '40s with the rumba. After World War II Latin bands playing the mambo became wildly popular, with performers like Pérez Prado, Machito and his Afro Cubans, Celia Cruz and the New York-born Puerto Rican timbalero Tito Puente. The great Cuban musicians toured the United States, and Americans went to Havana to enjoy daiquiris and baile at clubs like the famous Tropicana. Director Lex Gillespie takes his camera to Miami Beach, the Catskills and Havana where one of the mamboniks gives a tour of the places in the Cuban capital that he used to frequent back in the day. In New York the epicenter of mambo was the Palladium at 53rd and Broadway. Jews, Blacks and Puerto Ricans mixed happily there in an era when de facto segregation was the rule, even in New York. "If you knew how to dance, you were accepted," recalls another mambonik. Latin music was ubiquitous at bar and bat-mitzvahs and weddings and ruled at summer resorts in the Catskills. Latin music "appeals to the Jewish soul" explains one of the mamboniks, and such was its popularity that Jewish performers who played the music even began adopting Latin names. *The Mamboniks* shows this affinity as it really is: a heartfelt, profound and joyous kinship with another culture. —Miguel Pendás

Director Lex Gillespie in person in San Francisco

film and feast

Sunday, July 28 | following the Albany Twin screening
 \$30 Members | \$35 General Public
 Special event ticket required. Passes do not apply.

Immediately following the film *Abe*, join us for a private lunch reception featuring traditional and contemporary Middle Eastern flavors at Zaytoon Mediterranean Restaurant & Bar. Cash bar.

song and dance

Saturday, July 27 | preceding the Castro screening of *The Mamboniks* will be a live performance of mambo inspired music by *Club Havana 1950*
 \$22 Members | \$25 General Public

Club Havana 1950 led by Sascha Jacobsen represents the authentic sound of classic Cuban mambo from the golden age of Cuba's music scene. With a mix of the best Cuban, American, and Jewish musicians in the Bay Area, it will be impossible to remain seated during this fiery set. Jacobsen has performed with the Kronos Quartet, Rita Moreno, Hugh Jackman, Bonnie Raitt, and many more throughout his career.

Adam



Castro Tuesday, July 23 6:15 PM
1X ONLY

NW

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PREMIERE

Rhys Ernst, USA, 2019, 95 minutes, English

Co-Sponsored by Hebrew Free Loan

Directed by **Transparent** producer Rhys Ernst and adapted by Ariel Schrag from her novel of the same name, **Adam** drops us down in Brooklyn's queer hipster culture in the era of **The L Word**. This poignant directorial debut is a coming-of-age story about a 17-year-old cisgender high schooler who falls in love with his sister's lesbian friend after she mistakes him for transgender male. Adam decides to maintain this Shakespearean deception and a satirical and nuanced exploration of identity ensues. —**Lexi Leban**

Note: Mature Content

Director **Rhys Ernst**, producer **James Schamus**, and writer **Ariel Schrag** in person

Advocate



Castro Saturday, July 27 3:20 PM
Albany Twin Sunday, July 28 5:55 PM

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Rachel Leah Jones, Israel, 2018, 110 minutes, Hebrew w/ English Subtitles

Sponsored by Ray Lifchez

Israeli human rights lawyer Lea Tsemel is a force of nature. Confident and resilient, she is a magnet for the toughest cases imaginable: defending Palestinians accused of committing crimes. Tsemel is steadfast in her pursuit of justice believing the court system must show compassion. A lightning rod for controversy, her political enemies call her a traitor while she believes her work is about a better future, adroitly picking apart truth from propaganda. —**Janis Plotkin**

Best Israeli Film, Docaviv 2019

Director **Rachel Leah Jones** in person

Afterward



Castro Friday, July 26 1:15 PM
Albany Twin Saturday, July 27 4:00 PM

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PREMIERE

Ofra Bloch, USA, 2018, 95 minutes, English

Co-Sponsored by Anne Germanacos

In her powerful documentary, psychoanalyst and trauma expert Ofra Bloch—an Israeli-born woman from a family of Holocaust survivors—invites us on a courageous journey as she meets with people who represent the twin traumas that have defined her inner life and that of her country: Germans living in the shadow of Nazi crimes and Palestinians resisting the occupation of their lands. Her thought-provoking film begins to outline what mutual forgiveness might look like. —**Peter L. Stein**

Director **Ofra Bloch** in person

American Factory



Castro Monday, July 22 8:30 PM
Piedmont Saturday, August 3 1:45 PM

TA

Steven Bognar, Julia Reichert, USA, 2019, 115 minutes, English

Co-Sponsored by Nancy Blachman and David desJardins and by Toby and Robert Rubin

American Factory joins **Harlan County USA** in the canon of great labor union documentaries, writing a new chapter in American industry and labor in the era of Chinese ascendancy. A Chinese billionaire opens a factory in an abandoned General Motors plant intending to be the savior of small-town America. Early days of hope give way to challenges as Chinese labor practices clash with the deeply rooted values of American working-class union activists. —**Lexi Leban**

Producer **Julie Parker Benello** and subject **Rebecca Ruan O'Shaughnessy** in person in San Francisco; subject **Rebecca O'Shaughnessy** in person in Oakland

American Muslim



Castro Monday, July 22 12:30 PM
Albany Twin Friday, July 26 11:30 AM

TA

WORLD PREMIERE

Adam Zucker, USA, 2019, 83 minutes, English
Neighbors. Friends. Americans. Activists. You will encounter them all in **American Muslim**, a documentary that showcases the many forms the Muslim community takes all over New York City. These families support refugees and recent immigrants, organize family-friendly games at the mosque, pray together, eat together and band together with neighbors to protest the unjust edicts of the current administration's Muslim ban, the newest affront to the civil rights of these wholly American citizens. —**Maya Lekach**

Director **Adam Zucker** in person

Army of Lovers in the Holy Land



Castro Friday, July 26 4:00 PM
Albany Twin Sunday, July 28 8:55 PM

Preceded by **99** and **Sweater**

US PREMIERE

Asaf Galay, Israel, 2018, 65 minutes, Hebrew, English, Swedish w/ English Subtitles

Sponsored by Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation

Thirty years after launching into international stardom, queer disco-pop band Army of Lovers embarks on a new chapter when frontman Jean-Pierre Barda uproots his existence to move from Sweden to Israel. Examining complex concepts of home, identity, family and the pull of *aliyah* (immigration to Israel), this documentary rides on the charm of Barda, a can't-take-your-eyes-off-him enchanting subject, whether he is reclining on a chaise in a corset and thigh-high boots or donning fatigues while volunteering for the Israeli army. —**Alexis Whitham**

Invited guest: subject **Jean-Pierre Barda**

TA take action

NW next wave

HS her story

EJ ethiopian jews

Before You Know It



CineArts Saturday, July 20 8:55 PM
Castro Sunday, July 21 8:30 PM
Albany Twin Friday, July 26 8:55 PM

Hannah Pearl Utt, USA, 2019, 98 minutes, English

Co-Sponsored by Eileen Ruby and by Sharman Spector-Angel and Gary Angel and by Dana Corvin and Harris Weinberg

Packed into a cozy apartment above their independent theater in Greenwich Village resides the quirky Gurner family. Living with her eccentric playwright father (Mandy Patinkin) and an impassive preteen, all responsibilities fall upon the shoulders of pragmatic Rachel. After a traumatic event, Rachel and her kooky sister discover that the mother they thought was dead is actually a soap opera star (Judith Light). Amid the upheaval, Rachel desperately tries to right the sinking ship and maybe fix her own life. —Hayleigh Thompson

HS NW

Beyond the Bolex



Albany Twin Friday, July 26 1:40 PM
Castro Saturday, July 27 12:55 PM

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PREMIERE

Alyssa Bolsey, USA, 2018, 91 minutes, English, French w/ English Subtitles

A marvel of accessible filmmaking, the Bolex camera was first registered in 1924. Its visionary inventor was Jacques Bolsey, born in 1895 into a Jewish family in Kiev. His great-granddaughter Alyssa Bolsey has devoted herself to recounting the adventure of Bolsey's life, a microcosm of the Jewish experience in the mid-20th century. Countless independent filmmakers, experimentalists, animators, nature photographers and documentarians have found it a tool to fulfill their dreams. —Miguel Pendás

Director Alyssa Bolsey in person

NW

Carl Laemmle



Castro Friday, July 19 11:30 AM
CineArts Saturday, July 20 11:30 AM
Albany Twin Saturday, July 27 12:00 PM
Smith Rafael Friday, August 2 2:10 PM

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

James Freedman, USA, 2018, 90 minutes, English

Co-Sponsored by Dan Granoff and by Sheri Cohen and Charles Green

This is the extraordinary story of the German-Jewish immigrant who practically invented the movie business. Carl Laemmle founded Universal Pictures in 1912 which became known for such classic monster movies as *Frankenstein* and *Dracula*. When he sold Universal in 1936, Laemmle would go on to do something far more important than any movie or studio he had created: battling Adolph Hitler's government, he rescued more than 300 Jewish refugee families from the Holocaust.

—Sara L. Rubin

City of Joel



CineArts Monday, July 22 1:15 PM
Castro Thursday, July 25 3:45 PM
Albany Twin Tuesday, July 30 1:00 PM

Preceded by *Black Hat*

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Jesse Sweet, USA, 2018, 83 minutes, English, Yiddish w/ English Subtitles

Co-Sponsored by Joan Sarnat and David Hoffman

Emmy-winning director Jesse Sweet's fascinating and beautifully shot documentary shines a light on an insular but growing segment of American Jewry. Kiryas Joel (City of Joel), a 22,000-member Hasidic community in pastoral upstate New York, seeks to double its geographic footprint, thereby straining a previously peaceful relationship with its secular neighbors. The ensuing clash of cultures raises important questions about whether a formerly powerless minority can become too powerful.

—Stephanie Rapp

The Dancing Dogs of Dombrova



Castro Friday, July 19 6:00 PM
Albany Twin Tuesday, July 30 8:30 PM

BAY AREA PREMIERE

Zack Bernbaum, Canada, 2018, 102 minutes, English

Sarah's and Aaron's *bubbe* (grandmother) has entrusted them with a final request: to travel to Poland to exhume the remains of her beloved family dog so she can be buried with its bones. Unfortunately, neither speaks a word of Polish—let alone civil English to each other. Will the bickering siblings find the canine casket without driving each other into early graves of their own? In this quirky and endearing comedy anything is possible.

—Zöe Pollak

Director Zack Bernbaum in person in San Francisco

HS

Dolce Fine Giornata



Castro Sunday, July 21 6:20 PM
CineArts Thursday, July 25 8:35 PM
Albany Twin Wednesday, July 31 6:10 PM
Smith Rafael Friday, August 2 6:20 PM

BAY AREA PREMIERE

Jacek Borcuch, Poland, 2019, 96 minutes, Italian w/ English Subtitles

Sponsored by Moses and Susan Libitzky

Bantering with the Italian fishermen on the dock or careening through the Tuscan hillside in her sleek convertible, Maria Linde—the celebrated expat Polish Jewish poet at the center of this fine new drama—seems to be living *la dolce vita*. But when Maria gives a controversial speech that goes viral, she finds the backlash unwittingly hits those she loves, in this exquisite and complex moral drama set in picturesque Tuscany. —Peter L. Stein

World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award Winner for Acting, Sundance 2019

san francisco: castro theatre

thursday, july 18

6:30 PM *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles*
(Opening Night)
9:00 PM Opening Night Bash

friday, july 19

11:30 AM *Carl Laemmle*
1:35 PM *Fig Tree*
3:40 PM *Echo*
6:00 PM *The Dancing Dogs of Dombrova*
8:45 PM *How About Adolf?*

saturday, july 20

11:15 AM *Abe*
1:15 PM *It Must Swing! The Blue Note Story*
3:40 PM *The State Against Mandela and the Others*
6:00 PM *Curtiz* (SFJFF in Good Company)
8:50 PM *Safe Spaces* (Next Wave Spotlight)

sunday, july 21

11:30 AM *Seder-Masochism*
preceded by *Gefilte*
1:30 PM *This Is Personal*
3:50 PM *Golda*
6:20 PM *Dolce Fine Giornata*
8:30 PM *Before You Know It*

monday, july 22

12:30 PM *American Muslim*
3:15 PM *Refugee Lullaby*
5:30 PM *COOKED: Survival by Zip Code*
preceded by *Absolutely No Spitting*
(Freedom of Expression)
8:30 PM *American Factory*

tuesday, july 23

12:00 PM *Jews in Shorts: Israeli Narratives*
2:00 PM *King Bibi*
4:00 PM *Made in Auschwitz: The Untold Story of Block 10*
6:15 PM *Adam*
8:55 PM *My Polish Honeymoon*

palo alto: cinéarts

saturday, july 20

11:30 AM *Carl Laemmle*
1:30 PM *Golda*
4:00 PM *What She Said: The Art of Pauline Kael*
6:10 PM *My Polish Honeymoon*
(Palo Alto Opening Night)
8:55 PM *Before You Know It*

sunday, july 21

12:00 PM *King Bibi*
2:00 PM *How About Adolf?*
4:05 PM *The Mamboniks*
6:10 PM *Safe Spaces*
8:45 PM *Leona*

monday, july 22

1:15 PM *City of Joel*
preceded by *Black Hat*
3:40 PM *Fig Tree*
5:50 PM *The Keeper*
8:30 PM *Echo*

wednesday, july 24

11:30 AM *You Only Die Twice*
1:40 PM *The Rabbi Goes West* (FREE)
preceded by *Petting Zoo*
4:15 PM *Leona*
6:20 PM *The Amazing Johnathan Documentary*
(Centerpiece Documentary)
8:55 PM *The Humorist*

thursday, july 25

11:10 AM *Jews in Shorts: Documentaries*
1:15 PM *Latter Day Jew*
3:45 PM *City of Joel*
preceded by *Black Hat*
6:10 PM *Tel Aviv on Fire*
(Centerpiece Narrative)
8:55 PM *The Tobacconist*

friday, july 26

11:15 AM *Henri Dauman: Looking Up*
1:15 PM *Afterward*
4:00 PM *Army of Lovers in the Holy Land*
preceded by 99 and Sweater
6:20 PM *The Keeper*
8:55 PM *Give Me Liberty*

saturday, july 27

11:00 AM *Shut Up and Play the Piano*
12:55 PM *Beyond the Bolex*
3:20 PM *Advocate*
6:05 PM *Standing Up, Falling Down*
8:55 PM *The Mamboniks* (Song and Dance)

sunday, july 28

12:00 PM *What She Said: The Art of Pauline Kael*
(Local Spotlight)
2:15 PM *Picture Of His Life*
4:40 PM *Love, Antosha*
7:15 PM *The Red Sea Diving Resort*
(Closing Night)

tuesday, july 23

12:30 PM *It Must Swing! The Blue Note Story*
3:10 PM *The Rabbi Goes West* (FREE)
preceded by *Petting Zoo*
6:00 PM *The Amazing Johnathan Documentary*
8:10 PM *The Tobacconist*

wednesday, july 24

12:30 PM *Made in Auschwitz: The Untold Story of Block 10*
3:00 PM *COOKED: Survival by Zip Code*
preceded by *Absolutely No Spitting*
5:45 PM *Tel Aviv on Fire*
8:30 PM *Curtiz*

thursday, july 25

11:40 AM *Henri Dauman: Looking Up*
1:40 PM *You Only Die Twice*
3:40 PM *The State Against Mandela and the Others*
6:00 PM *Standing Up, Falling Down*
8:35 PM *Dolce Fine Giornata*

san francisco: spark arts

sunday, july 21

3:30 PM *This is Personal Panel* (FREE)

east bay: albany twin

thursday, july 25

6:30 PM *Picture Of His Life*
(East Bay Opening Night)

friday, july 26

12:00 PM *American Muslim*
1:40 PM *Beyond the Bolex*
4:05 PM *Latter Day Jew*
6:25 PM *Tel Aviv on Fire*
8:55 PM *Before You Know It*

saturday, july 27

12:00 PM *Carl Laemmle*
2:00 PM *Golda*
4:00 PM *Afterward*
6:40 PM *Curtiz*
8:50 PM *Echo*

sunday, july 28

11:00 AM *Abe* (Film and Feast)
1:00 PM *It Must Swing! The Blue Note Story*
3:25 PM *Standing Up, Falling Down*
5:55 PM *Advocate*
8:55 PM *Army of Lovers in the Holy Land*
preceded by 99 and Sweater

oakland: piedmont theatre

friday, august 2

12:00 PM *Jews in Shorts: Israeli Narratives*
2:00 PM *The Passengers*
preceded by *Jerusalem_In_Between*
4:00 PM *The State Against Mandela and the Others*
6:20 PM *Give Me Liberty*
8:45 PM *Shut Up and Play the Piano*

saturday, august 3

11:45 AM *COOKED: Survival by Zip Code*
preceded by *Absolutely No Spitting*
1:45 PM *American Factory*
4:30 PM *The Mamboniks*
6:35 PM *Leona*
8:45 PM *Seder-Masochism*
preceded by *Gefilte*

san rafael: christopher b. smith rafael film center

friday, august 2

2:10 PM *Carl Laemmle*
4:15 PM *Fig Tree*
6:20 PM *Dolce Fine Giornata*
8:30 PM *The Humorist*

saturday, august 3

11:30 AM *How About Adolf?*
1:35 PM *The Tobacconist*
4:05 PM *The Amazing Johnathan Documentary*
6:25 PM *Standing Up, Falling Down*
8:40 PM *Tel Aviv on Fire*

sunday, july 28

1:45 PM *HerStory Panel* (FREE)

monday, july 29

1:30 PM *You Only Die Twice*
3:45 PM *King Bibi*
6:00 PM *Love, Antosha*
8:35 PM *The Keeper*

tuesday, july 30

1:00 PM *City of Joel*
preceded by *Black Hat*
3:30 PM *The Rabbi Goes West* (FREE)
preceded by *Petting Zoo*
6:25 PM *My Polish Honeymoon*
8:30 PM *The Dancing Dogs of Dombrova*

wednesday, july 31

1:30 PM *Henri Dauman: Looking Up*
3:50 PM *Jews in Shorts: Documentaries*
6:10 PM *Dolce Fine Giornata*
8:30 PM *Safe Spaces*

thursday, august 1

1:15 PM *Made in Auschwitz: The Untold Story of Block 10*
3:45 PM *Fig Tree*
6:10 PM *The Amazing Johnathan Documentary*
8:15 PM *The Humorist*

sunday, august 4

12:00 PM *Refugee Lullaby*
1:45 PM *This Is Personal*
4:05 PM *What She Said: The Art of Pauline Kael*
6:15 PM *The Tobacconist*
8:50 PM *How About Adolf?*

sunday, august 4

11:45 AM *My Polish Honeymoon*
1:45 PM *The Keeper*
4:15 PM *Picture Of His Life*
6:30 PM *Safe Spaces*
8:35 PM *Leona*

Echo



Castro Friday, July 19 3:40 PM
CineArts Monday, July 22 8:30 PM
Albany Twin Saturday, July 27 8:50 PM

Amikan Kovner, Assaf Snir, Israel, 2018, 100 minutes, Hebrew w/ English Subtitles
 How well do we really know the people we love? **Echo** addresses this provocative question through Avner and Ella, a seemingly happy couple with two children. When Avner suspects his wife is having an affair, he begins to record her calls and obsessively listen to her conversations, leading him on an emotional quest. Superbly acted and engrossingly paced, this tense thriller and family drama illuminates the joy and pain of married life.

—Stephanie Rapp

Fig Tree



Castro Friday, July 19 1:35 PM
CineArts Monday, July 22 3:40 PM
Albany Twin Thursday, August 1 3:45 PM
Smith Rafael Friday, August 2 4:15 PM

Alamork Davidian, Israel, 2018, 93 minutes, Hebrew w/ English Subtitles

Co-Sponsored by Varda Rabin

In 1989 the Ethiopian Civil War plunged the nation into economic hardship and political repression. In this turmoil, 16-year-old Mina must follow her mother to Israel as her boyfriend Eli fights for his freedom, hiding from kidnappers looking to conscript him into the army. Suffused with the texture of daily life amid dramatically fluctuating circumstances, this is a sensitive portrayal of the human stakes in a conflict, captured through a lush visual palette. —Ilana Sichel

Note: Contains Graphic Violence

Winner, Eurimages' Audentia Award, Toronto International Film Festival 2018



Give Me Liberty



Castro Friday, July 26 8:55 PM
Piedmont Friday, August 2 6:20 PM

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Kirill Mikhnovsky, USA, 2019, 111 minutes, English

Co-Sponsored by Sinai Memorial Chapel Chevra Kadisha

"The one good thing about repeating your mistakes is that you know when to cringe." It is hard being a 25-year-old medical van driver in Milwaukee. Over the course of one adrenaline-fueled day, he must balance the demands of hilariously kvetching, adamantly unassimilated, Russian funeral guests (plus accordion player) with his special-needs clients, some from the low-income, African American community. A wildly funny, endearing and surprising portrait of family, community and survival. —Tien-Tien L. Jong



Golda



CineArts Saturday, July 20 1:30 PM
Castro Sunday, July 21 3:50 PM
Albany Twin Saturday, July 27 2:00 PM

SNEAK PREVIEW

Sagi Bornstein, Udi Nir, Shani Rozanes, Israel, 2019, 88 minutes, Hebrew w/ English Subtitles

Sponsored by Roselyne Chroman Swig

Golda Meir was a larger than life figure in Israel for nearly 50 years. Throughout her time in the public eye she presented an image of stoicism and stubbornness that earned her both devoted friends and bitter enemies. **Golda** explores Meir's legacy by skillfully combining interviews with former allies and adversaries. Shortly before her death, after a televised interview ended, the cameras kept rolling, recording a candid discussion never seen until now.

—Mark Valentine

Henri Dauman: Looking Up



CineArts Thursday, July 25 11:40 AM
Castro Friday, July 26 11:15 AM
Albany Twin Wednesday, July 31 1:30 PM

BAY AREA PREMIERE

Peter Jones, USA, 2018, 86 minutes, English

Co-Sponsored by Deborah Blank

You might not know the name of French photographer and *Life* photojournalist Henri Dauman but you most definitely know many of the iconic pictures he has taken of Elvis, Marilyn and Jackie. This intimate and fascinating chronicle of a self-taught perfectionist threads Dauman's creative journey with the photographer's emotional trip to find the French country home where he and his Jewish mother hid and nearly died during the Second World War. —Thomas Logoreci

How About Adolf?



Castro Friday, July 19 8:45 PM
CineArts Sunday, July 21 2:00 PM
Smith Rafael Saturday, August 3 11:30 AM
Piedmont Sunday, August 4 8:50 PM

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Sönke Wortmann, Germany, 2018, 91 minutes, German w/ English Subtitles

Co-Sponsored by Russell and Susan Holdstein

"What's in a name?" Shakespeare's lofty question takes on a new life in this savage comedy—a breakout hit in Germany—which raucously lampoons contemporary German attitudes, guilt and denials of the Nazi past. When the black sheep of a progressive, middle-class family surprises his siblings with the news that he intends to name his son Adolf, petty carnage ensues as personal, ideological and sexual histories are unmasked in this scintillating dark comedy. —Tien-Tien L. Jong

The Humorist



Castro Wednesday, July 24 8:55 PM
Albany Twin Thursday, August 1 8:15 PM
Smith Rafael Friday, August 2 8:30 PM

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Michael Iдов, Russia, 2019, 101 minutes, Russian w/ English Subtitles

Co-Sponsored by Rosanne and Al Levitt

In the twilight years of the Soviet Union, former Latvian novelist Boris Arkadiev has taken up stand-up insult comedy. In the spirit of the traditional court jester, Boris is a wildly popular state-sponsored mischief maker who is allowed to make jokes about authority figures to show what a bunch of regular Joes they are. But how long can he continue to pursue this charade and conceal the real bitterness within? —**Miguel Pendás**

Note: Contains Nudity

It Must Schwing! The Blue Note Story



Castro Saturday, July 20 1:15 PM
CineArts Tuesday, July 23 12:30 PM
Albany Twin Sunday, July 28 1:00 PM

CALIFORNIA PREMIERE

Eric Friedler, Germany, 2018, 113 minutes, English

Sponsored by Sandee Blechman and Steven Goldberg

Modern jazz was born at Blue Note records with the music of artists like Thelonious Monk, Miles Davis, Bud Powell, John Coltrane and Art Blakey. The company was the brainchild of two German Jewish refugees, Alfred Lion and Francis Wolff. Sharing a passion for jazz, they fled Nazism to come to America. The soundtrack of classic Blue Note bebop and cool jazz and stunning visuals make this documentary an unforgettable experience and complements last year's *Blue Note Records: Beyond the Notes*. —**Miguel Pendás**

The Keeper



CineArts Monday, July 22 5:50 PM
Castro Friday, July 26 6:20 PM
Albany Twin Monday, July 29 8:35 PM
Smith Rafael Sunday, August 4 1:45 PM

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Marcus Rosenmüller, UK, 2019, 119 minutes, English

Sponsored by Susan and Jay Mall

This compelling drama tells the remarkable true life story of Bert Trautmann, a German footballer who raised the bar for soccer goalkeeping while playing for Manchester City, and as a decorated SS veteran tested the country's willingness to forgive. Centered around the love story between Trautmann and the coach's daughter, as a central part of its appeal, the film raises tough questions about forgiveness, forgetting and the power of sports to (re)unite.

—**Emily Kaiser Thelin**

King Bibi



CineArts Sunday, July 21 12:00 PM
Castro Tuesday, July 23 2:00 PM
Albany Twin Monday, July 29 3:45 PM

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PREMIERE

Dan Shadur, Israel, 2018, 87 minutes, Hebrew w/ English Subtitles

Co-Sponsored by Ron Abileah and Marlene Winograd

A meticulous exploration of Benjamin Netanyahu's rise to power, *King Bibi* relies solely on archival footage of his media performances. From his early days as a dashing "expert" on TV, to his strategy of direct communication with the public, "Bibi" evolved from Israel's greatest political hope to a controversial figure whom some perceive as Israel's savior and others as a cynical politician who will stop at nothing to retain his power. —**Janis Plotkin**

Latter Day Jew



Castro Thursday, July 25 1:15 PM
Albany Twin Friday, July 26 4:05 PM

BAY AREA PREMIERE

Aliza Rosen, USA, 2019, 85 minutes, English

Co-Sponsored by Benjamin Berkowitz and Lindsey Sedlack and by Frederick Hertz

Converting to Judaism isn't something to be taken lightly, but that doesn't mean it can't be funny. Los Angeles comedian H. Alan Scott is known for his appearances on *Ellen* and hosting a *Golden Girls* podcast, but things get personal when the gay ex-Mormon cancer survivor travels to Israel to experience Tel Aviv Pride and blow a shofar, embarking on a religious and spiritual journey that (of course) culminates in a bar mitzvah.

—**Alexis Whitham**

Director **Aliza Rosen** and subject **H. Alan Scott** in person

Leona



CineArts Sunday, July 21 8:45 PM
Castro Wednesday, July 24 4:15 PM
Piedmont Saturday, August 3 6:35 PM
Smith Rafael Sunday, August 4 8:35 PM

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PREMIERE

Isaac Cherem, Mexico, 2018, 94 minutes, Spanish w/ English Subtitles

Co-Sponsored by Janet Schneider and Andrew Kahn

In the close-knit Jewish community of Mexico City, free-spirited painter Ariela faces pressure to find a suitable husband. Although she is content with her independence, Ariela's life takes a turn when she falls for a man outside her faith. As their relationship blossoms, she struggles to navigate the clash between her family's expectations and her own passions. A clear-eyed depiction of love, both romantic and familial, *Leona* elucidates the difficulty of reconciling contemporary life with long-held traditions. —**Hayleigh Thompson**

Note: Contains Nudity

Love, Antosha



Castro Sunday, July 28 4:40 PM
Albany Twin Monday, July 29 6:00 PM

BAY AREA PREMIERE

Garret Price, USA, 2019, 92 minutes, English
 An intimate look into the infinitely creative mind of Anton Yelchin (*Star Trek*), the young actor who died tragically at the age of 27. Yelchin was a Russian Jew who immigrated to America with his parents to escape anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. Filmmaker Garret Price paints a fascinating picture of a zealous child whose passion for film was his escape from reality. Jennifer Lawrence, Kristen Stewart and others recount Yelchin's powerful impact on their lives. —**Has Alexandra**

Director Garret Price, producer Adam Gibbs and subjects Irina and Viktor Yelchin in person

NW

Made in Auschwitz: The Untold Story of Block 10



Castro Tuesday, July 23 4:00 PM
CineArts Wednesday, July 24 12:30 PM
Albany Twin Thursday, August 1 1:15 PM

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Sylvia Nagel, Sonya Winterberg, Germany, 2019, 72 minutes, German w/ English Subtitles

Co-Sponsored by David Jadeson

This chilling documentary uses intimate survivor testimonies, archival footage, and legal records to tell the story of the young women who underwent medical experimentation in Auschwitz under Carl Clauberg, a sadistic gynecologist. Many of the women were so young that they didn't understand their reproductive systems before suffering their destruction. This admirably crafted film traces the attempts to bring Clauberg to justice, as well as the unsettling contribution of this research on reproductive science. —**Ilana Sichel**

Director Sonya Winterberg and subject Nomi Harper in person

HS

The Passengers



Piedmont Friday, August 2 2:00 PM
 Preceded by *Jerusalem_in_Between*
 1X ONLY

BAY AREA PREMIERE

Ryan Porush, USA, 2018, 70 minutes, English

Co-sponsored by Craig Harrison's Expressions of Excellence!™

More than 9,000 religious Ethiopian Jews eager to make aliyah (declare Israeli citizenship) are still waiting to enter the Holy Land as Israel continues to deny their appeals for citizenship. Best friends Demoz and Gezi are not only tired of waiting, they're taking direct action. Though neither has ever set foot outside their humble village of Goran, they begin a monumental journey across the American landscape as unlikely ambassadors and activists. —**Joshua Moore**

EJ

The Rabbi Goes West



CineArts Tuesday, July 23 3:10 PM
Castro Wednesday, July 24 1:40 PM
Albany Twin Tuesday, July 30 3:30 PM

Preceded by *Petting Zoo*

All screenings are free and open to the public.

Tickets still required. Use code GOWEST39 online.

Refugee Lullaby



Castro Monday, July 22 3:15 PM
Piedmont Sunday, August 4 12:00 PM

WORLD PREMIERE

Amy Geller, Gerald Peary, USA, 2019, 73 minutes, English

Free Matinees are generously provided by the Osher Donor Advised Fund

One can encounter a Chabad rabbi almost anywhere. However, it is still rare to encounter one on horseback or at the shooting range. Nevertheless, as we learn in the documentary *The Rabbi Goes West*, Chaim Bruk and his wife Chavie aim to adapt to their new home of Montana and embrace its particular form of the American Dream. But their missionary zeal earns them a mixed reception from Montana's small Jewish community. —**Mark Valentine**

Directors Amy Geller and Gerald Peary in person
 Subject Chaim Bruk in person in Albany

TA

SNEAK PREVIEW

Ronit Kertsner, Israel, 2019, 73 minutes, Hebrew w/ English Subtitles

In the seemingly peaceful and picturesque Austrian countryside resides Hans Breuer: shepherd by day, activist by night. Just hours outside of Breuer's cabin, the tranquility is disrupted as thousands of refugees cross his country's border seeking asylum. Using a private Facebook group, Breuer volunteers to help the refugees, driving them safely across the Hungarian border, providing hot soup and singing Yiddish lullabies. Filmmaker Ronit Kertsner showcases Breuer's brave pursuit through this powerful documentary. —**Has Alexandra**

Seder-Masochism



Castro Sunday, July 21 11:30 AM
Piedmont Saturday, August 3 8:45 PM

Preceded by *Gefilte*

SAN FRANCISCO PREMIERE

Nina Paley, USA, 2018, 77 minutes, English

Co-Sponsored by Ralph and Marsha Guggenheim

Nina Paley's (*Sita Sings the Blues*) animated musical retelling of the Exodus and Passover is beautifully crafted, highly entertaining and delightfully provocative. Think *Fantasia* meets the Old Testament, coupled with serious feminist criticism and a rocking soundtrack. Paley's syncopated, beat-driven scenes of the ten plagues are exceptionally drawn. *Seder-Masochism* is a tour de force musical and visual pastiche that investigates women's role within Judaism, Paley's father's relationship to Judaism and the meaning of Passover. —**Nancy K. Fishman**

Shut Up and Play the Piano



Castro Saturday, July 27 11:00 AM
Piedmont Friday, August 2 8:45 PM

BAY AREA PREMIERE

Philipp Jedicke, Germany, 2018, 82 minutes, English

Performance provocateur, professional Jewish MC and classical savant are a few of the phrases used to describe the cult musical phenomenon that is Chilly Gonzales. The Grammy-winning Canadian pianist, composer and performer has moved effortlessly from smoky jazz and hip-hop clubs to packed orchestra halls. This boisterous and freewheeling documentary portrait culminates in a chaotic concert with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra taking on Gonzales in all his swaggering, crowd-surfing glory. —**Thomas Logoreci**

Standing Up, Falling Down



CineArts Thursday, July 25 6:00 PM
Castro Saturday, July 27 6:05 PM
Albany Twin Sunday, July 28 3:25 PM
Smith Rafael Saturday, August 3 6:25 PM

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Matt Ratner, USA, 2019, 91 minutes, English

Sponsored by John & Marcia Goldman Foundation

This heartwarming story about family, homecoming and the elusive nature of adulthood stars Ben Schwartz (*Parks and Recreation*) as Scott, an aspiring comedian who has reluctantly moved back home after failing to hit the big time in Los Angeles. Lonely and bereft, he strikes up an unexpected friendship with his aging dermatologist (Billy Crystal). The comedic icon all but steals the movie with his understated performance; the authentic connection between the costars gives the film its unexpected resonance. —**Emily Kaiser Thelin**

Director Matt Ratner in person in San Francisco and Albany

The State Against Mandela and the Others



Castro Saturday, July 20 3:40 PM
CineArts Thursday, July 25 3:40 PM
Piedmont Friday, August 2 4:00 PM

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Nicolas Champeaux, Gilles Porte, France, 2018, 106 minutes, English

Sponsored by Michael Bien

In 1963, Nelson Mandela and nine confederates were tried on charges of attempting to overthrow the South African state. While Mandela's story is well known, there were a number of important supporting actors in this drama, including members of South Africa's small Jewish community. Blending chilling archival audio with striking animation and interviews with surviving defendants, *The State Against Mandela and the Others* vividly brings this seminal courtroom drama to life. —**Mark Valentine**

This is Personal



Castro Sunday, July 21 1:30 PM
Piedmont Sunday, August 4 1:45 PM

Immediately following the Castro screening, join us for a panel discussion at Spark Arts, 4229 18th Street, moderated by Ilana Kaufman, Director of the Jews of Color Field Building Initiative.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PREMIERE

Amy Berg, USA, 2019, 105 minutes, English

Co-Sponsored by Linda and Frank Kurtz

The largest march in documented history was conceived of hours after the election of Donald Trump. But what starts with anti-Trump sentiment becomes a global movement through the vision of the organizers. As the fight for women's rights spreads, the new leaders come under scrutiny—notably co-chair Tamika Mallory's relationship with noted anti-Semite Louis Farrakhan. This stirring documentary captures all of the complications that come with representing all women and organizing beyond pink hats. —**Alexis Whitham**

The Tobacconist



CineArts Tuesday, July 23 8:10 PM
Castro Thursday, July 25 8:55 PM
Smith Rafael Saturday, August 3 1:35 PM
Piedmont Sunday, August 4 6:15 PM

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PREMIERE

Nikolaus Leytner, Austria, 2018, 117 minutes, German w/ English Subtitles

Sponsored by Laszlo N. Tauber Family Foundation

Moving from a provincial village to the bustling city of Vienna in 1937, young Franz stumbles through his new life as an apprentice to a tobacconist while searching for a direction. He strikes up an unlikely friendship with shop regular Sigmund Freud, played by the late, great German actor Bruno Ganz (*Downfall*, *Wings of Desire*). However, as the Nazi fervor begins to take hold, Franz is forced to grow up fast. —**Hayleigh Thompson**

Note: Contains Nudity

You Only Die Twice



Castro Wednesday, July 24 11:30 AM
CineArts Thursday, July 25 1:40 PM
Albany Twin Monday, July 29 1:30 PM

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PREMIERE

Yair Lev, David Deri, Israel, 2018, 88 minutes, Hebrew w/ English Subtitles

Sponsored by Liki and Joe Abrams

When Israeli filmmaker Yair Lev's mother receives an inheritance from a distant relative, it seems a stroke of good fortune. But when a second death certificate for her father is found, the filmmaker turns detective as he uncovers the secret history of his grandfather and the man who stole his grandfather's identity. This gripping story unfolds in surprising and moving ways, challenging assumptions about human behavior during the Holocaust. —**Stephanie Rapp**

Winner, Research Award, Docaviv 2018

shorts preceding films

Absolutely No Spitting

plays w/ **COOKED: Survival by Zip Code**, p.10



Judith Helfand, USA, 2019, 10 minutes, English

This is a very quirky, sometimes self-deprecating and always heymish spit-driven DNA-journey-turned-love-letter between a fiftysomething new old mom and her very spunky four-and-a-half-year-old adopted daughter.

Gefilte

plays w/ **Seder-Masochism**, p.29



Rachel Fleit, USA, 2018, 11 minutes, English

Each year the Hermelin family of Detroit comes together to celebrate Passover by eating gefilte fish. The signature dish becomes a lightning rod in which the Hermelins project their feelings about family, identity, tradition, struggle, loss—and as always, love.

Black Hat

plays w/ **City of Joel**, p.21



Sarah Smith, USA, 2019, 14 minutes, English

A seemingly pious Hasidic man living a secret double life misplaces his black hat one night causing his two separate lives to collide in a way he never imagined.

Director Sarah Smith in person in San Francisco

Jerusalem_In_Between

plays w/ **The Passengers**, p.28



Pietro Pinto, Israel, 2018, 15 minutes, English

Two boxers, one Jewish and the other Arab, come together in sweat and blood to face off and discover their similarities.

Petting Zoo

plays w/ **The Rabbi Goes West**, p.29



Daniel Robin, USA, 2019, 11 minutes, English

In 1974 a local TV news station crew came into the filmmaker's home to document and learn about Jewish rituals. A narrative evolves about the formation of American Jewish identity and transforms into an analogy for the current rise in nationalism and anti-Semitism.

99 and Sweater

plays w/ **Army of Lovers in the Holy Land**, p.19



Nick Borenstein, USA, 2019, 5 minutes, English

Nick Borenstein, USA, 2019, 5 minutes, English

In **99** a mother and son shop for a bar mitzvah gift at a 99 cent store and in **Sweater** a terrible day changes dramatically when a young man gets a free coffee.

Jews in Shorts: Documentaries

NW



80 minutes

Close the Shutters, Ynon Lan
Granny Knows Best, Stephan Nielsen
Portrait of My Family in My Thirteenth Year, Omri Dekel-Kadosh
Guy Hircefeld, a Guy with a Camera, Andrés Gallegos
The Starfish, Tyler Gildin

Castro Thursday, July 25 11:10 AM
Albany Twin Wednesday, July 31 3:50 PM

This year's collection of eclectic and powerful documentary shorts includes tracing memories of a beloved grandfather through stop motion animation, dating advice from an irascible German grandmother, contrasting accounts of the death of a family dog, striking photographs shot by an Israel war veteran and peace activist and the gripping story of a Holocaust survivor whose life was saved when his parents sent him to Sweden. —Joshua Moore

Best Short Documentary Award winner is eligible for consideration in the Documentary Short Subject category of the Academy Awards®.

Director Andrés Gallegos in person. Director Tyler Gildin in person

Jews in Shorts: Israeli Narratives

NW



90 minutes

Next Stop, Einat Gaulan
The Caregiver, Ruthy Pribar
In His Place, Ofir Feldman
Freedom Train, Tawfik Abu Wael
Torch, Odeya Rosenak
In His Place sponsored by the Consulate General of Israel, Pacific Northwest Region

Castro Tuesday, July 23 12:00 PM
Piedmont Friday, August 2 12:00 PM

Even in the midst of the mundane, life has a way of throwing us curves. In this year's superb collection of Israeli short narratives nothing is merely routine for our characters. Whether it's sitting on the bus, returning to a job after being away on vacation, attending a family gathering, riding on a train or collecting a social security check, nothing will remain the same. —Joshua Moore

Shorts sponsored by: Tracy and Dennis Albers, Robert and Judith Aptekar, Lisa and Matthew Chianoff, Anita and Steven Feinstein, Meredith J. Goldsmith, Julie and David Levine, Paul Resnick and Joan Karlin, Michelle Spitz, and Harold and Mary Zlot.

JFI and the Jerusalem Film Workshop

Sponsored by Amy and Mort Friedkin

The Jewish Film Institute partners with the Jerusalem Film Workshop (JFW) to sponsor young and emerging filmmakers (ages 19–27) from the Bay Area to participate in a six week summer filmmaking workshop in Israel to produce a short documentary that screens at the Jerusalem International Jewish Film Festival and the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival. SFJFF is proud to present the 2019 JFW film **Jerusalem_In_Between**.



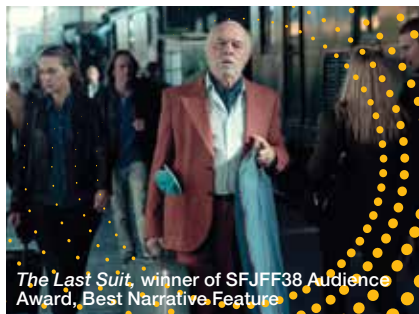
Roberta Grossman
winner of SFJFF38
Audience Award: Best
Documentary Feature
Who Will Write Our History



Liz Garbus accepts the
SFJFF38 Freedom of
Expression Award for *The
Fourth Estate*



The Interpreter, winner of SFJFF38
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The Last Suit, winner of SFJFF38 Audience
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Film Movement Award

Presented with the distributor Film Movement, this award honors achievement in short filmmaking that expresses the Jewish experience in a unique, original, and meaningful way, or provides a fresh perspective on diversity within the Israeli or Jewish community. The winner receives the option of a non-exclusive distribution deal with Film Movement.

Freedom Of Expression Award

Since 2005, the Jewish Film Institute and San Francisco Jewish Film Festival have presented an artist with the Freedom of Expression Award to honor the unfettered imagination, which is a cornerstone of a free, just and open society.

Youth Jury Award

JFI inaugurates the SFJFF Youth Jury Award. Bay Area high school teens jury this short film award and present it to the winner at the Festival.



2019 SFJFF inaugural Youth Jury

The inaugural Youth Jury will be presenting the SFJFF39 Youth Jury Prize to the winning short filmmaker on Thursday, July 25th. JFI Programming staff had the pleasure to meet with a select group of Bay Area teens to explore what it means to jury a film. The teens spent several Sunday sessions viewing short films, writing reviews, and debating and discussing the nuance and nature of each film under the direction of Program Director Jay Rosenblatt and Programmer Joshua Moore.

The Youth Jury is a program of the Jewish Teen Education and Engagement Initiative, with support provided by the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund, Jewish Federation of the East Bay and The Jewish Community Foundation, and the Jim Joseph Foundation.

The Jewish Film Institute extends a heartfelt thanks to all of its generous donors. For a complete listing of members and donors, visit jfi.org/supporters.

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The **Jewish Film Institute** inspires communities to enrich and deepen their understanding of Jewish life through film, media and dialogue. JFI nurtures new stories from emerging and established filmmakers, champions freedom of expression, and showcases content that reflects Jewish experience through a contemporary lens.

Visit www.jfi.org to discover what's happening.



Events & Screenings

JFI presents events and screenings year-round including our beloved **WinterFest** weekend, **members-only** sneak previews, **Next Wave** parties, **Mitzvah Series** screenings for senior communities and inmates at San Quentin State Prison. This year, JFI became an official partner of the **Sundance Film Institute**.

Watch Online

JFI's expertly curated film and media reaches a global audience through robust online initiatives. Browse **JFI On Demand** with over 350 international titles to stream now. Visit **The Cinegogue**, JFI's blog profiling an emerging mediamaker for free each month with **JFI Online Shorts**. Extended panels and filmmaker interviews from Sundance and other JFI events can be found on our YouTube and at jfi.org/watch-online.

Filmmaker Support

JFI's programs are important launchpads for new and returning filmmakers. JFI's competitive **Filmmaker Residency** program provides support to filmmakers in all stages of production and its partnership with the Jerusalem Film Workshop nurtures young filmmakers to explore their passion for storytelling. The 2019 Filmmakers in Residence are Eva Brzeski, Sari Gilman, Yoav Potash, and Steven Pressman—all currently working on unique projects which exemplify diverse and world-class storytelling.



Still image from *The Remembered*, film by Yoav Potash 2019 JFI Filmmaker in Residence.

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Daria Martin, *Tonight the World*, 2019. Live action film, anamorphic 16mm film transferred to HD, 13.5 minutes. © Daria Martin, courtesy Maureen Paley, London.

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| Students (w/ ID), Seniors (65+), Disabled | | \$14 |
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| East Bay Opening Night Film & Party | \$22 | \$25 |
| Freedom of Expression Award | \$15 | \$18 |
| Centerpiece Films | \$15 | \$18 |
| Song and Dance | \$22 | \$25 |
| Film and Feast | \$30 | \$35 |
| Community Shabbat Dinner Individual Seats | \$125 | \$135 |
| Community Shabbat Dinner Tables of 10 | | \$1250 |

| Festival Passes | JFI Members | General Public |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------|
| All Festival Pass | \$395 | \$425 |

The All Festival Pass gives you priority entry to every moment of SFJFF39, including Big Nights, regular screenings and any additional ticketed events (Shabbat Dinner and Film and Feast not included)

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------|
| San Francisco Pass | \$300 | \$325 |
|--------------------|-------|-------|

Valid for all screenings at the Castro Theatre in San Francisco, including Opening Night Party

| | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|
| East Bay Pass | \$250 | \$275 |
|---------------|-------|-------|

Valid for all screenings at the Albany Twin and Piedmont Theatre in the East Bay

| | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|
| Palo Alto Pass | \$180 | \$205 |
|----------------|-------|-------|

Valid for all screenings at the CineArts Theatre in Palo Alto

| | | |
|------------|-------|-------|
| Marin Pass | \$100 | \$125 |
|------------|-------|-------|

Valid for all screenings in San Rafael

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------|
| Next Wave Pass (35 and under) | | \$45 |
|-------------------------------|--|------|

Valid for all screenings at all theaters (some exceptions may apply)

| | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| 10-Flix Ticket Package | \$110 | \$130 |
|------------------------|-------|-------|

10-Flix Ticket Packages can be redeemed for up to ten regular screenings, Centerpiece Films, and the Freedom of Expression Award program. 10-Flix can be redeemed online or at any Festival Box Office

how to purchase tickets

Member Ticket Presale begins **June 18 at 10:00 AM**.
 General Public Ticket Sale begins **June 20 at 10:00 AM**.
 In Person Box Office Sale begins **July 18**.

online: sfjff.org/tickets

24 hours a day

by phone: 415.621.0568

Monday–Friday 11:00 AM–5:00 PM

in person: festival venue box offices

Opens one hour prior to the first screening and closes 15 minutes after the posted start time of the last screening

ticket delivery options

E-Delivery/Print at Home for online purchases:
 Tickets will arrive as an attachment to the confirmation email sent after completion of the order. Tickets may be printed at home or presented on a mobile device for entry.

Will Call. Tickets are available for pick up at a Festival Venue Box Office at the first screening in the order. Tickets purchased in separate transactions will not automatically be packaged together.

Standard Mail. Tickets will be sent within 5-7 days of purchase. An additional fee is charged for tickets by mail. For purchases made after July 8th, tickets will be available via will call or e-delivery only.

For the full SFJFF39 ticket policy and FAQ, go to sfjff.org/tickets.

accessibility

SFJF is committed to maximizing the festival experience for patrons of all abilities. If you need ADA assistance, please make yourself known to the theater house manager. All screening venues are wheelchair accessible with accessible bathrooms. Limited assisted listening devices are available at select venues on a first-come, first-served basis.

the fine print

All ticket sales are final. SFJFF is not responsible for lost, stolen or misplaced tickets. No refunds, exchanges or reissues are available on any purchases. We will be unable to admit patrons without tickets or passes. All ticket and pass holders must arrive 30 minutes prior to showtime to guarantee entry. All seating is at SFJFF's discretion.

venues

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>SAN FRANCISCO</p> <p>Castro Theatre 429 Castro Street, SF</p> <p>Contemporary Jewish Museum (Opening Night Party) 736 Mission Street, SF</p> <p>City Hall North Light Court (Community Shabbat Dinner) 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, SF</p> | <p>Spark Arts (Panel Discussions) 4229 18th Street, SF</p> <p>EAST BAY</p> <p>Albany Twin 1115 Solano Avenue, Albany</p> <p>Piedmont Theatre 4186 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland</p> | <p>PALO ALTO</p> <p>CineArts Theatre 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto</p> <p>MARIN</p> <p>Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center 1118 Fourth Street, San Rafael</p> <p><i>Visit sfjff.org/venues for full transportation and arrival information.</i></p> |
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jewish film institute

145 Ninth Street, Suite 200
San Francisco, CA 94103
www.jfi.org

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july 18–
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