

THE ASPER FOUNDATION PERFORMANCES IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
THE ROSE AND MAX RADY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE PRESENTS

# WINNIPEG INTERNATIONAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



MONDAY **27** MARCH TO WEDNESDAY **5** APRIL 2006

BERNEY THEATRE  
ASPER JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS | 123 DONCASTER STREET

PRESENTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
JEWISH STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION/HILLEL

MONDAY | MARCH 27, 7:30 P.M.

## BONJOUR MONSIEUR SHLOMI

(Ha-Kochavim Shel Shlomi)

Israel, 2003  
94 minutes

Hebrew with English subtitles  
Director: Shemi Zarhin

*Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi* is a heartening family comedy and surprising love story. Shlomi takes care of everyone; his grandfather, his older brother, his mother, his father and his older sister's twins. And most of all, Shlomi makes everyone happy by cooking them their favourite dishes. Feeling unloved by his mother and alone at school, Shlomi overcompensates with his service of others and has nothing left when it comes to developing his own unique talents. But no one in the family really sees Shlomi. Even Shlomi doesn't see himself. Until one day a routine math test arouses the suspicions of Shlomi's math teacher and school principal. After meeting and talking with him, they realize that a unique personality is hiding behind this neglected and dormant boy. With the positive influences in his life, especially with the help of Rona the gardener with whom he falls head over heels in love, Shlomi discovers himself. **This coming of age feature focuses on the captivating character of one blessed boy with extraordinary cooking talents, who discovers through the power of love that the sky is the limit.**

Best Screenplay, Festroia-Troia International Film Festival, 2004  
Audience Award-Feature Film, Valladolid International Film Festival, 2004  
Best Film, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director, Best Screenplay, Nominations, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2003  
Best Film Award, Seattle International Film Festival, 2003

BRIEF NUDITY

TUESDAY | MARCH 28, 7:30 P.M.

## NINA'S TRAGEDIES

(Ha-Asonot Shel Nina)

Israel, 2003  
106 minutes

Hebrew with English subtitles  
Director: Savi Gavison

Birth, death, life, love, marriage, divorce, infatuation, passion, joy, heartbreak and dancing Hassids! Welcome to the mixed up world of *Nina's Tragedies*, a humorous look at 14 year old Nadav's turbulent period in this family's history which takes place over an intensely emotional six months period. This moving feature unfolds through a series of funny and touching journal entries in which Nadav reminisces about this tumultuous chapter in his family's history- from his high-strung Uncle Haimon's untimely death to the passing of his estranged, deeply religious father, Amnon. As his aunt Nina struggles to recover from her own loss, there are bittersweet moments that reveal with great emotion and expertise by one of Israel's most celebrated filmmakers how closely related fate is to coincidence in an unpredictable world. **Profound and whimsical, sexy and surprising, *Nina's Tragedies* is ultimately about unconditional acceptance- and the power of love to heal.**

Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Art Direction, Best Cinematography, Best Director, Best Film, Best Screenplay, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2003  
Best Feature Film, Jerusalem International Film Festival, 2003

BRIEF NUDITY

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 29, 7:30 P.M.

## HINEINI: COMING OUT IN A JEWISH HIGH SCHOOL

USA, 2005  
60 minutes

English  
Director: Irena Fayngold

*Hineini* (Hebrew for "Here I am") is a timely new documentary that chronicles the story about a gay Jewish teen's courageous fight to establish a gay-straight alliance at a Jewish high school in the Boston area and the transformative impact of her campaign on everyone involved. Beyond the struggle to create a supportive environment for gay and lesbian students and teachers at the school, this is the story of a community wrestling with pluralism and diversity in the Jewish community. Shulamit Izen enters 9<sup>th</sup> grade at The New Jewish High School (now Gann Academy) longing to connect more deeply with her Jewish faith. She also starts school as a lesbian. Using interviews with both those who support her efforts and those who oppose it - the film allows the members of this community to tell their own story as it unfolds. **What emerges is a potent story of Jewish pluralism and a community navigating the cross currents of Jewish tradition and social change.** Presented in conjunction with Anakhnu, the Rady JCC's Jewish GLBT group.

THURSDAY | MARCH 30, 7:30 P.M.

## WALK ON WATER

(LaLehet Al Hamayim)

Israel/Sweden, 2004  
103 minutes

Hebrew /German with English subtitles  
Director: Eytan Fox

Following the successful film *Yossi & Jagger*, director Eytan Fox returns with this captivating thriller about a hardened Mossad assassin hunting down a fugitive Nazi war criminal. Posing as an Israeli tour guide, he befriends the German grandchildren of his target. Their growing friendship and trust begins to unravel when each confronts ghosts from their past, but the mission must go on. **Filmed with an acclaimed international cast in Israel and Berlin, this unique movie delves into the complex relationships between Israelis, Germans and Palestinians as well as gays and straights.**

Best Foreign Film Nomination, Cesar Award, 2006  
Outstanding Motion Picture -Foreign Film, Satellite Awards, 2005  
Best Music, Best Sound, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2004  
Best Actor, Best Cinematography, Best Direct, Best Film, Best Screenplay Nominations, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2004



MONDAY **27** MARCH TO WEDNESDAY **5** APRIL 2006

SATURDAY | APRIL 1, 8:30 P.M.

## TURN LEFT AT THE END OF THE WORLD

(Sof Ha'Olam Smola)

Israel/France, 2004 Hebrew, French, English with English subtitles  
110 minutes Director: Avi Nesher

The highest grossing Israeli film of the last decade, this charming and sexy comic drama features two Jewish immigrant families - one Indian, the other Moroccan - who become unlikely neighbors in the Israeli desert. The passionate and temperamental Moroccans - who consider themselves French - look down on the darker Indians. The reserved quiet Indians, who consider themselves British, think of Moroccans as unsophisticated people. As the adults wage cultural warfare, their teenage daughters are caught up in the 1960s' sexual revolution. **In this isolated place, the road to harmony takes many surprising and comical twists and turns and is beautifully filmed against a desert background.**

Best Art Direction, Best Costumes, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2004  
Best Actress, Best Cinematography, Best Supporting Actress, Best Sound, Nominations, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2004  
Grand Prix Award, Taormina Film Festival, 2004

MATURE THEMES: NUDITY AND SEXUALITY

SUNDAY | APRIL 2, 2:00 P.M.

## A CANTOR'S TALE

USA, 2005 English  
90 minutes Director: Erik Greenberg Anjou

The tradition of Eastern European Jewish cantorial music is alive and well in modern America in no small part thanks to the efforts of Brooklyn-born Cantor Jacob Mendelson. "Jackie," as he is affectionately called by everyone, explores the American roots of *Hazzanut* (Jewish liturgical music) while taking us on a musical voyage that spans the Atlantic, originating in his birthplace of Boro Park, Brooklyn and reaching all the way to Jerusalem. There is music in the air, *everywhere*. The experience of hearing the world's most renowned cantors in the synagogue was part of a lifestyle that provided American Jewry with a rich cultural heirloom. It is Cantor Mendelson's mission to insure that this legacy is passed on to this and the next generation to come in a way that is both true to its origins and relevant to the modern world. With missionary zeal, Mendelson teaches a new generation of *Hazzanim* - men and women - the art of Jewish liturgical music. This feature-length documentary treats us to appearances by renowned cantors and aficionados Joseph Malovany, Ben-Zion Miller, Alberto Mizrahi, Matthew Lazar, Neil Shicoff, Jackie Mason and Alan Dershowitz. **A Cantor's Tale tells the story of Hazzanut in America and Jack Mendelson's pledge to protecting and teaching this traditional respected music.**

Winner Audience Award, Best Documentary, Washington Jewish Film Festival, 2005

SUNDAY | APRIL 2, 7:00 P.M.

## MIXED BLESSINGS: THE CHALLENGE OF RAISING CHILDREN IN A JEWISH-CHRISTIAN FAMILY

USA, 2004 English  
57 minutes Director: Jennifer Kaplan

This poignant documentary explores the religious struggles and challenges that take place within Jewish-Christian interfaith families when raising children. The film illustrates the emotional process four couples encounter as they try to come to terms with their own spiritual and religious beliefs and how those beliefs get passed down to their children. What happens when a partner changes his or her mind about a previous agreement? What if someone's faith wasn't important before having children, but becomes important after the birth of a child? In other words, "what about the children?" Never has a film dealt so intimately and directly with this issue. This sensitive movie shows each family's choice and allows for their decision making to unfold naturally without placing judgment. *Mixed Blessings is evidence to the diverse forms of Jewish identity and community.*

Special Guest: filmmaker Jennifer Kaplan will be in attendance for a post-screening discussion.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF WINNIPEG AND YAD (YOUNG ADULT DIVISION) OF FEDERATION.

MONDAY | APRIL 3, 7:30 P.M.

## ROSENSTRASSE

Germany/Netherlands, 2003 German with English Subtitles  
136 minutes Director: Margarethe Von Trotta

This dramatic feature based on a historical event, portrays the courageous protest of Aryan women married to Jews against the imprisonment of their husbands in a cell on Rosenstrasse in 1943 Berlin. An unusual backdrop is the setting for one of the most remarkable acts of resistance in World War II, but it was a group of women who challenged Hitler's SS and triumphed. Director Margarethe Von Trotta tells this moving story, beginning in modern-day New York City where Hannah begins to probe into her mother's troubled past and discovers long-buried family secrets and her own connection to the historical events of Rosenstrasse. **Based on a true story, this little known and powerful struggle of ultimate success is moving and inspirational and shows there is nothing stronger than the power of love.**

Best Cinematography, Bavarian Film Award, 2004  
Best European Film, David di Donatello Awards, 2004  
Best Actress Nomination, European Film Award, 2003  
Best Actress, Signis Award, Venice Film Festival, 2003

TUESDAY | APRIL 4, 7:30 PM

## CAMPFIRE

(Medurat Hashevet)

Israel, 2004 Hebrew with English subtitles  
96 minutes Director: Joseph Cedar

*Campfire is a finely shaped story* of one Israeli woman's individual struggle set against the backdrop of the religious Zionist settler movement in the early 1980s. Rachel Gerlik, a 42 year-old widow, mother of two beautiful teenage daughters, wants to join the founding group of a new religious settlement in the West Bank. The problem is that the acceptance committee won't admit her unless she remarries and proves that she and her daughters can meet the group's religious and ideological standards. When a series of unfortunate events forces Rachel to weigh her alliances, only Yossi a 50 year-old bachelor, and the new man in Rachel's life, can show her that living as an outcast is not as bad as it seems. **This touching and charming feature illustrates a story of one woman's personal battle, but is also a portrait of a political movement that has forever affected millions of lives in the Middle East.**

Israel's Selection for Best Foreign Language Film, 2005 Academy Awards  
Best Director, Best Editing, Best Film, Best Supporting Actress, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2004  
Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Art Direction, Best Cinematography, Best Music, Nomination, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2004  
Don Quixote Award - Special Mention, Berlin International Film Award, 2004  
Fipresci Prize (International Film Critic Award), Chicago International Film Festival, 2004

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 5, 7:30 PM

## LIVE AND BECOME

(Va, vis et deviens)

France/Belgium/ Israel/ Italy, 2005 Hebrew, Amharic, French with English subtitles  
140 minutes Director: Radu Mihaileanu

The year is 1985 and Operation Moses is at its peak - the massive airlift of thousands of Ethiopian Jews who are fleeing oppression in their native country. **This moving, epic feature film, brilliantly portrays** the story of an Ethiopian boy who makes his way to Israel from a Sudanese refugee camp. Faced with certain death, a Christian Ethiopian mother steers her nine year old son Solomon to the lineup, quietly insisting he declare himself to be Jewish. Once in Israel and officially an orphan, the newly renamed Shlomo is adopted by a French Sephardic family in Tel Aviv and throws himself into absorbing Hebrew, French, the Jewish faith and a new family. Although arrival in Israel was to be a break from his past, he is bound up in the lies upon which his very survival depends, and he lives terrified that discovery is looming. **At every turn, Live and Become is an account of culture, identity and belonging.**

Best Film, Best Script Copenhagen Film Festival, 2005  
Prize of the Ecumenical Jury, Berlin International Film Festival, 2005  
Panorama Audience Award, Berlin International Film Festival, 2005  
Best Art Direction, Best Costume Design, Best Supporting Actor, Nomination, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2005  
Best Director, Best Writing, Best Film Nominations, Cesar Awards-France, 2005



INDIVIDUAL TICKET ..... \$8.50

FOUR PACK ..... \$30.00

FESTIVAL PASS ..... \$70.00

Prices include GST

**RADY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
123 DONCASTER STREET | 477-7510  
[www.radyjcc.com](http://www.radyjcc.com) | CLICK ON TICKET CENTRAL

Same day tickets available for purchase an hour before show time at the door.

**RUSH SEATING.** No refunds or exchanges on tickets, packages or passes.

The generous support of the following is acknowledged:

- JEWISH STUDENTS ASSOCIATION / HILLEL
- JEWISH FEDERATION OF WINNIPEG/YOUNG ADULT DIVISION
- THE JEWISH POST AND NEWS
- THE WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

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