

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 7:30 p.m.
USHPIZIN

The Guests

Israel, 2004
 Hebrew, Yiddish with English subtitles
 90 minutes
 Director: Giddi Dar



Powerful, touching and amusing, Ushpizin (The Guests) is a heartwarming and soul-stirring film. Big-hearted Moshe Bellanga is down on his luck so he and his loving wife Malli pray passionately for a miracle. Their prayers are answered.....in the form of a

large sum of money that mysteriously lands on their doorstep. But the great "gift" leads to the arrival of two uninvited ushpizin, and Moshe and Malli are left wondering.....have they found God's favour or is this just a test of their devotion? **This intensely personal movie is a humorous look at the daily lives of ultra-orthodox Jews learning, living and loving in modern-day Israel.**

Best Actor, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2004
 Best Screenplay, Best Supporting Actor Nominations, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2004

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 7:30 p.m.
STRANGE FRUIT

USA, 2002
 English
 60 minutes
 Director: Joel Katz



Southern trees bear a strange fruit; blood on the leaves and blood at the root. ...These are the words to one of the world's most famous protest songs. Strange Fruit is the first documentary exploring the history and legacy of the Billie Holiday classic. While many people

assume *Strange Fruit* was written by Billie Holiday herself, it actually began as a poem by a Jewish schoolteacher and union activist Alan Meeropol from the Bronx who later set it to music. Disturbed by a photograph of a lynching, the teacher wrote the stark verse and brooding melody about the horror of lynching under the pseudonym Lewis Allan in 1938. He set the poem to music and a few years later convinced Billy Holiday to record it in a legendary heartbreaking performance. Intertwining jazz genealogy, biography, performance footage, and the history of lynching, **director Joel Katz fashions a fascinating discovery of the lost story behind a true American classic.** This **powerful and touching film** examines the history of lynching, and the interplay of race, labour and the left, and popular culture as forces that would give rise to the Civil Rights Movement.

Jury Award – Honourable Mention, Double Take Documentary Film Festival, 2002
 Honourable Mention Award, Organization of American Historians, 2003
 Grand Prize, USA Film Festival, 2002

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 9:00 p.m.
WHAT A WONDERFUL PLACE

Eize Makom Nifla

Israel, 2005
 Hebrew, Filipino/Tagalog, English, Russian with English subtitles
 104 minutes
 Director: Eyal Halfon



Set in a dreary border town in the Negev, *What a Wonderful Place* interweaves an ensemble of characters in a multi-layered narrative concerning foreign workers in post-Intifada Israel. Franco is an ex-cop turned human trafficker who develops an intimate friendship with

Jana, a Ukrainian prostitute. Zeltzer is a melancholy landowner whose only honest relationship is with one of his Thai workers. Aloni, a tough ranger who persecutes the Thai farmers, depends on Eddie, his father's Filipino caretaker. As the stories unfold, we get insight into the characters' personal lives as connections start to develop between these almost culturally unrelated people all of whom arrive at the same point in the desert, for numerous reasons, but with one dramatic resolution. **This poignant and complex film, which speaks powerfully about the human experience, has been universally acclaimed for its uniformly magnificent performances and avidly effective storytelling.**

Best Film, Best Screenplay, Best Actor, Best Art Direction, Best Editing, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2005
 Best Actress, Best Cinematography, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress Nominations, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy
 Selected as the 2005 Israeli submission to the 2006 Academy Awards in the Best Foreign Film Category
 Best Actor Award, Special Jury Award – Karlovy Vary Film Festival, 2005
 Best Actor Award, Bucharest International Film Festival, 2005

Warning: Mature Themes; Adult Content, Sexuality, Nudity, Violence

SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2:00 p.m.
ALL I'VE GOT

Kol Ma She'Yesh Li

Israel, 2003
 Hebrew with English subtitles
 70 minutes
 Director: Margalit Keren



In this **moving and touching film**, a 72-year-old grandmother dies and finds herself on a ferry which will take her across the river to the hereafter. On the ferryboat she meets her first love, who was killed in a road accident in which they were both involved when they were young. She is presented with

a fateful choice: to start life afresh as a 22-year-old – her age at the time of the accident – and to relinquish all her memories of the life she has lived with her husband and children; or to remain a 72-year-old woman with all her life's memories intact. If she chooses the second alternative she will get off the boat when it reaches its destination and will never be truly reunited with her beloved, who has been waiting for her on the ferryboat for 50 long years.

Best Script Award – Fipa-Biarritz Film Festival, France, 2003

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 7:30 p.m.
LOVE & DANCE

Sippur Hatzi-Russi

Israel, 2006
Hebrew with English subtitles
95 minutes
Director: Eitan Anner



Love & Dance explores the difficulties of the Russian immigrant community in Israel through a story of teenage angst and ballroom dancing. Chen, a young kid, is battling a cultural conflict between his Russian born mother and Israeli father. She is cultured and used to the finer

things in life, including theatre and fine dining. He is gruff on the outside but sweet on the inside - a Sabra; and looking to make his young son a man rather than the wimp his mother is raising. One day, Chen stumbles upon a ballroom dance class for young people and sees Natalie, a stunning Russian young girl he falls in love with immediately. His interest in Natalie leads him to taking ballroom dancing and to ultimately bridging the cultural divide of his own family - through the Cha Cha and the Tango. The teachers are a pair of former Russian world champions who never quite fulfilled their potential, but find themselves battling their demons through the instructions of the kids. In this **delightful and moving film**, crossing the bridge between cultures begins with a step.

Best Director Nomination, Golden St. George Award,
Moscow International Jewish Film Festival, 2006

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 7:30 p.m.
RASHEVSKI'S TANGO

Le Tango des Rashevski

Belgium, France, Luxembourg, 2003
Hebrew, English, French with English subtitles
90 minutes
Director: Sam Garbarski



Rashevski's Tango is a **delightful comedy drama**, which focuses on a family's search for their Jewish identity after their grandmother, Rosa, dies. The Rashevski clan has become assimilated, but Rosa's death, and the process of organizing her funeral, makes them rethink their

own levels of Jewish observance, especially her granddaughter Nina, who sets about finding herself a Jewish husband. However, Rosa's fondness for tango dancing has an even more profound effect on their lives. Charming and endearing, the characters confront issues of relationships, family, religion, love, romance, and interfaith marriage.

Audience Award Boston Jewish Film Festival, 2004
Best Actress, Best Screenplay Nominations, Belgium Film Awards, 2004

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 9:00 p.m.
THREE MOTHERS

Shalosh Ima'ot

Israel, 2006
French, Arabic, Hebrew with English subtitles
106 minutes
Director: Dina Zvi-Riklis



Three Mothers is an **extraordinary true saga** about Egyptian-Jewish triplets whose lives are cloaked in secrets. Born into a wealthy family in Alexandria in 1943, the sisters were blessed by King Farouk of Egypt and given the names of flowers by their parents: Rose, Flora and Yasmin.

Today, they live together in a Tel Aviv apartment under a cloud of unhappiness. One sister is a former cabaret singer who dreams of a comeback. Another is a retired midwife. The third is in dire need of a kidney transplant. In an emotionally charged film, spanning six decades, the women reveal the truth about their distressing family history in hopes of finding redemption. Written and directed by Dina Zvi-Riklis, whose mother was one of the real-life triplets, the film's strength lies in an **emotional script** and **stellar ensemble performances**, notably from Israel's acclaimed performer Gila Almagor.

Best Cinematography, Best Costumes, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2006
Best Picture, Best Screenplay, Best Director, Best Art Direction, Best Sound, Best Editing
Nominations, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2006
Best Cinematography, Jerusalem Film Festival, 2006

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2:00 p.m.
THE RITCHIE BOYS

Canada/Germany, 2004
German, English with English subtitles
90 minutes
Director: Christian Bauer



The Ritchie Boys is the untold true story of a group of young men who fled Nazi Germany and returned to Europe as soldiers in US uniforms. During WWII, the United States formed an elite intelligence unit -- mostly German Jewish academics -- at Camp Ritchie, Maryland. Tasked with

devising ways to break the morale of the SS, these men are often credited with bringing an early end to the war. They knew the psychology and the language of the enemy better than anybody else. Not always courageous, but determined, bright, and inventive they fought their own kind of war. They saved lives. They were victors, not victims. They were young; and the world's most unlikely soldiers. As teenagers they had escaped the Nazis. They were Jewish. They called themselves "The Ritchie Boys". Sixty years after WWII, the surviving veterans are reunited together in this **exceptional documentary** to share their journey of courage and bravery.

Shortlist Best Feature Length Documentary, Academy Awards, 2005
Jerusalem Municipality Prize, Category of Jewish Experience,
Jerusalem International Film Festival, 2005
Audience Award, Best Documentary Palm Spring Jewish Film Festival, 2006
Audience Award, Best Documentary Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival, 2005
Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival, 2005

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 7:30 p.m.
GLOOMY SUNDAY

Ein Lied von Liebe und Tod

Germany/ Hungary, 1999
German with English subtitles
114 minutes
Director: Rolf Schubel



Gloomy Sunday is a dramatic romance set in Hungary in the 1930s. Blending truth and fiction the film reveals the story of a love quadrangle before, during and after the war. Laszlo, the Jewish proprietor of a fashionable Budapest café and Andras, the non-Jewish piano player he employs to play at his

establishment, both love Ilona the stunning waitress. As does Hans, an outwardly candid young man who shortly joins the Nazi party. Inspired by his new love, Andras composes the song *Gloomy Sunday* which becomes a huge hit. As the looming Holocaust engulfs Europe, these four complex human beings fall in love, endanger themselves and endure a maze of deceit and betrayal. Using the Holocaust as its backdrop, *Gloomy Sunday* movingly illustrates the romantic yearnings and moral choices that confront lovers in any era. **Hailed by critics as one of the most memorable and remarkable movies ever made, it is a film not to be missed.**

Best Motion Picture, Foreign Language Nomination, Golden Satellite Awards, 2004
Audience Award, Coachella Valley Festival of Festivals, 2001
Best Cinematography, Best Direction, Bavarian Film Awards, 2000
Outstanding Feature Film & Outstanding Individual Achievement: Actor Nominations,
German Film Awards, 2000
German Screenplay Award, 2000
Gold Film Award, Guild Film Awards, 2000

Warning: Mature Themes; Adult Content, Sexuality, Nudity

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 7:30 p.m.
A GREEN CHARIOT

Merkava Yeruka

Israel, 2004
Hebrew, English, Russian with English subtitles
48minutes
Director: Gilad Goldschmidt



Twenty two year-old Sasha's greatest wish is to become an Israeli. He has become observant Jewish, changed his name to Yair and speaks only in Hebrew -- even when he is addressed in Russian. He has completely cut himself off from his Russian past, including his father and his Russian friends. Now, Yair is about to marry his Israeli girlfriend. But when Yair receives a package from his aunt in the Ukraine, his world is shaken. Something inside challenges everything Yair believes about himself and the person he's tried to become. The revelation forces him to confront his religious beliefs in this **compelling film** and journey back to the Russian identity he has fought to suppress.

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Silver Remi Award, Houston Worldfest International Film Festival, 2006
Best Actor Nomination, Shanghai International Festival, 2006
Special prize, Religion Today Film Festival, Italy, 2006

Followed by **LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER**

Preceded by **A GREEN CHARIOT**

LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER

K'moh Dag Bli Mayim

Israel, 2006
Hebrew, Spanish with English subtitles
50 minutes
Director: Leonid Prudovsky



Like A Fish Out of Water is a **romantic comedy** about a new immigrant from Argentina and his relationship with his Hebrew teacher at the Absorption Centre. Marcelo is a secular young man, an actor and single parent to his 11-year old daughter, Lucy. He's desperately looking for someone

to help him improve his Hebrew accent, so he can pass the auditions for an Israeli soap opera. Anat, his religious teacher, is probably the best solution, but it seems that she hates soap operas, and is not so fond of her pupil either. In fact, she has her own problems: mainly her mother, Bruria, an energetic, not to say pushy lady, frantically seeking a perfect match for her daughter who has, in her eyes, clearly passed the proper wedding age.

Audience Award, Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival, 2006
Jury Citation, Girona International Film Festival Competition, 2006

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 7:30 p.m.
SOPHIE SCHOLL: THE FINAL DAYS

Die letzten Tage

Germany, 2005
German with English subtitles
120 minutes
Director: Marc Rothemund



The true story of Germany's most famous anti-Nazi heroine is brought to thrilling life in the multi-award winning drama *Sophie Scholl: The Final Days*. Julia Jentsch gives a **luminous performance** as the young coed-turned-fearless activist. Armed with long-buried historical

records of her incarceration, director Marc Rothemund expertly re-creates the last six days of Sophie Scholl's life: a **heart-stopping journey** from arrest to interrogation, trial and sentence. In 1943, as Hitler continues to wage war across Europe, a group of college students mount an underground resistance movement in Munich. Dedicated expressly to the downfall of the monolithic Third Reich war machine, they call themselves the White Rose.

Best Foreign Language Film Nomination, Academy Awards, 2006
Best Actress, German Film Critics Association Awards, 2006
Prize of the Ecumenical Jury, Best Director, Best Actress, Best Actor Awards,
Berlin International Film Festival, 2005
Best Actress, Best Director, European Film Awards, 2005
Best Film Nomination, European Film Awards, 2005
Best Actress & Best Director - European Film Awards, 2005