


Saturday April 5 9:30 p.m.

Aviva My Love

Aviva Ahuvati
Israel, 2006
Hebrew, English subtitles
107 minutes
Director: Shemi Zarhin


Best Screenplay, Best Actress, Jerusalem Film Festival, 2007
 Best Screenplay, Shanghai International Film Festival, 2007
 Best Picture, Best Director, Best Screenplay Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, Best Editing Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2006
 Best Actor, Best Cinematography, Best Director, Best Editing Nominations, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2006

All Aviva wants is to write, and indeed every detail in her mundane life sparks an imaginative tale. But Aviva lives in a working class town in the North of Israel, with an unemployed husband and a demanding family. Aviva keeps her creative passion alive, with endless talent and grace, juggling the pots and pans of her day job as a cook and the ever growing needs of her big family. From the director of festival favourite *Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi* comes a delightful, richly layered story about a woman on the brink of fulfilling her lifelong dream to become a published author, when she finds that her novelist mentor has other plans for her work. This engaging drama is a beautifully shot story of a woman who seeks to express herself as a writer who overcomes many obstacles.

TICKETS:

Individual Ticket:
\$8 M / \$9 NM
Six Pack:
 Choose six different films
\$42 M / \$48 NM
Ten Pack:
 Choose ten different films
\$70 M / \$80 NM

Prices include GST

 Rush Seating. No refunds or exchanges on tickets, packages or passes.
 Films subject to classification

RADY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE
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Sunday, April 6 2:00 p.m.

Little Heroes

Giborim K'tanim
Israel, 2006
Hebrew, Russian, English Subtitles
76 minutes
Director: Itai Lev


Golden Slipper Award for Best Children's Film, Zlin International Festival for Children and Youth, Czech Republic, 2007
 Best Film Award, Children Film Festival, USA, 2007
 Jury Award for Best Film, Festival Internacional de Cine Nueva Mirada para la Infancia y la Juventud, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2007

A boy who is trying to cope with his father's death, a Russian girl with telepathic abilities, her mentally-challenged brother and a boy, who is an outsider in the close-knit society of a kibbutz, embark on a courageous expedition to rescue the lives of two injured teenagers in the Negev. During the adventure the four social outsiders bond together, bridge the gaps among them and learn to face their fears. Gradually and unexpectedly, they form a heroic team: a warrior, a magician, a good-hearted giant and a thief. But will they do so in time to save the injured people? This is one of the first films for children made in Israel, and it provides a glimpse of the Israeli reality while emphasizing the common denominators of people worldwide. It also shows that children can be heroes and can actually make a difference.


Sunday, April 6 7:30 p.m.

The Rape of Europa

USA, 2006
English, Russian, Polish, German
French, Italian, English Subtitles
117 minutes
Directors: Richard Berge & Bonni Cohen


Best Documentary Feature-Audience Choice Award, RiverRun International Film Festival, 2007
 Documentary Screenplay Award Nomination, Writers Guild of America, 2008

The documentary *The Rape of Europa* tells the epic story of the systematic theft, deliberate destruction and miraculous survival of Europe's art treasures during the Third Reich and the Second World War. In a journey through seven countries, the film takes the audience into the violent whirlwind of fanaticism, greed, and warfare that threatened to wipe out the artistic heritage of Europe. For 12 long years, the Nazis looted and destroyed art on a scale unprecedented in history. But young art professionals as well as ordinary heroes, from truck drivers to department store clerks, fought back with an extraordinary effort to safeguard, rescue and return the millions of lost, hidden and stolen treasures.


Monday, April 7 7:30 p.m.

Praying with Lior

USA, 2007
Director: Ilana Tracthman
87 minutes


Winner, Audience Award, Best Documentary, Washington Jewish Film Festival and Boston Jewish Film Festival, 2007
 Winner, Audience Award, Best Documentary, San Diego Jewish Film Festival Award, 2008

An engrossing, wrenching and tender documentary film, *Praying with Lior* introduces Lior Liebling, also called "the little rebbe." Lior has Down syndrome, and has spent his entire life praying with utter abandon. Is he a "spiritual genius" as many around him say? Or simply the vessel that contains everyone's unfulfilled wishes and expectations? Lior – whose name means "my light" in Hebrew — lost his mother at age six, and her words and spirit hover over the film. While everyone agrees Lior is closer to G-d, he's also a burden, a best friend, an inspiration, and an embarrassment, depending on which family member is speaking. As Lior approaches Bar Mitzvah, the Jewish coming-of-age ceremony, different characters provide a window into life spent "praying with Lior." The movie poses difficult questions such as what is "disability" and who really talks to G-d? Told with intimacy and humour, *Praying with Lior* is a family story, a triumph story, a grief story, a divinely-inspired story.


Tuesday, April 8 7:30 p.m.

Beaufort

Israel, 2007
Hebrew, English subtitles
Director: Joseph Cedar
125 minutes


Best Foreign Language Film Nomination, Academy Awards, 2008
 Best Cinematography, Best Editing, Best Sound Direction, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2007
 Best Film, Best Screenplay, Best Director, Best Actor, Nominations, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2007
 Silver Berlin Bear, Best Director Award, Berlin International Film Festival, 2007

The first Israeli film to explore the painful subject of Israel's 18-year presence in Southern Lebanon, *Beaufort* dramatically depicts the complex moral and tactical dilemmas facing the young commander of Beaufort Castle, a Crusader-era fortress, during the Israeli army's unilateral withdrawal from Southern Lebanon in 2000. In the days leading up to Israel's withdrawal, the soldiers stationed at the mountaintop outpost of Beaufort live under a barrage of constant attacks. Frustrated by the knowledge that they are risking—and often losing—their lives in defense of a fortress that will soon be abandoned, the men struggle to do their duty while grieving for their dead comrades and preparing for the evacuation. A moving picture of a troop struggling for survival during the first war in Lebanon in 2000.



Wednesday, March 26 7:30 p.m.

Sweet Mud

Adama Meshuga'at

Israel, 2006
Hebrew, French, English subtitles
97 minutes
Director: Dror Shaul



Grand Jury Prize Winner, Sundance Film Festival, 2007
Class Bear Award Winner, Berlin Film Festival, 2007
Best Picture, Best Art Direction, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2006
Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Screenplay, Best Director, Best Editing Nominations, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2006

In this dark yet comedic coming-of-age drama, a boy enters his Bar Mitzvah (Jewish coming-of-age ceremony) year on a southern Israel kibbutz in the 1970s. Trying to reconcile the community's motto of equality with the reality that his mentally ill mother has been abandoned, he comes to learn that not every person fits into Utopia. One of the most accomplished and celebrated international dramas of the year, *Sweet Mud* peels back the romantic mythology surrounding communal life on an Israeli kibbutz to tell a more personal, poignant story of thwarted love, adolescent awakening and human longings and failings. It is a deeply felt and beautifully photographed drama, worthy of all the acclaim it has received, both within Israel and abroad.



Thursday, March 27 7:30 p.m.

Orthodox Stance

United States, 2007
English, Russian, English subtitles
82 minutes
Director: Jason Hutt



Official Selection, Silverdocs Film Festival, Sarasota Film Festival and San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, 2007

For the last 60 years, the term "Jewish boxer" has been an oxymoron. But Dmitriy Salita, a 24 year-old Russian immigrant is making history as a top professional boxer and a rigorously observant Jew. While providing an intimate, three-year period look at the trials and tribulations faced by an up and coming professional boxer, the documentary *Orthodox Stance* is a portrait of seemingly incompatible cultures and characters working together to support Dmitriy's rare and remarkable devotion to both Orthodox Judaism and the pursuit of a professional boxing title. In the end, this inspiring documentary is about more than just boxing and religion, but about a young man's search for meaning in life. While his two greatest passions may initially seem completely incompatible, Dmitriy proves that love and dedication for two opposing passions can bring peace and contentment, despite great contrast.



Saturday, March 29 9:30 p.m.

Noodle

Israel, 2007
Hebrew, Mandarin, English subtitles
100 minutes
Director: Ayelet Mehaemi



Best Supporting Actress Award, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2007
Best Film, Best Actress, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Director, Best Editing Nominations, Awards of the Israeli Film Academy, 2007
Special Grand Prix of the Jury, Montreal World Film Festival, 2007

Noodle is a touching comic-drama spun around an El Al flight attendant's (Mili Avital) life-affirming adventure and the captivating plight of an abandoned Chinese boy. It's also the story of relationships between sisters, wives and husbands and friends and strangers. This film is a moving story in which two human beings - as different from each other as Tel Aviv is from Beijing - accompany each other on a remarkable journey, one that takes them both back to a meaningful life.



Sunday, March 30 2:00 p.m.

So Long Are You Young: Samuel Ullman's Poem and Passion

USA, 2006
English
60 minutes
Director: Judith Schaefer



The documentary *So Long Are You Young* charts the remarkable journey of a poem written in 1917 by Samuel Ullman, a humble German-Jewish immigrant who lived in Birmingham, Alabama. While unsuccessful in business, Ullman was active in community service, founding a reform synagogue, serving as a city alderman and helping establish Birmingham's first all-black public high school. Twenty years after his death, his poem, *Youth*, was discovered by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, and its message of hope spread across a demoralized post-war Japan. Ullman's words went on to influence politicians and prominent businessmen the world over, including former South Korean president Kim Dae-Jung, Panasonic founder Konosuke Matsushita and Bobby Kennedy. Layered with interviews, historical footage and photographs, and a fascinating timeline of Ullman's life, *So Long Are You Young* is an expressive and heartfelt celebration of a little-known literary sensation.



Monday, March 31 7:30 p.m.

Nina's Journey

Ninas Resa
Sweden, Poland, 2005
German, Polish, Swedish, Yiddish, English subtitles
120 minutes
Director: Lena Einhorn



Best Film, Best Screenplay, Gulbagge - Sweden Film Awards, 2006

Nina's Journey is a powerful drama about a young Jewish woman's remarkable odyssey from survival in World War II Poland to a new life in Sweden. Based on the true story of writer-director Lena Einhorn's mother, Nina Rajmic, the film begins with Nina's family's incarceration in the Warsaw ghetto and its uprising. Nina luckily escaped to the Aryan side, but her parents remained behind. She lived among the non-Jews until war's end, when it became clear that only she and her brother had survived. The archival footage, from newsreels to still photographs, provides historical background and depth to Nina's story. Starring some of Poland's top actors, *Nina's Journey* breaks with most of the conventional styles of cinematic storytelling. This is a feature film with a real storyteller.



Tuesday, April 1 7:30 p.m.

My Mexican Shivah

Morirse está en Hebreo
Mexico, USA, 2007
Hebrew, Spanish, Yiddish, English subtitles
102 minutes
Director: Alejandro Springall
Producer: John Sayles



In Polanco, the Jewish quarter of Mexico City, Moishe Tartakovsky, a much loved patriarch, collapses and dies while dancing at a Jewish theatre group celebration. There is an immediate gathering for the funeral in Mexico City. After the burial, an eclectic group of family, friends, and even a Catholic ex-lover, gather for the *shivah* (the seven day Jewish mourning ritual). They are wryly observed by a couple of Yiddish speaking 'spirits' who accompanied Moishe in his lifetime and are about to lead his soul on to the next world. Over the course of the next seven days of the *shivah*, secrets are disclosed; his embittered daughter acts out her grievances and his friends parade their quarrels for all to hear. If you can conceive of a *shivah* being a setting for humour then this charming and insightful comedy is not to be missed, with a wonderful music score performed by The Klezmatiks.

Brief Nudity



Wednesday, April 2 7:30 p.m.

My Opposition — The Diaries of Friedrich Kellner

Canada, 2007
English
65 minutes
Directors: Fem Levitt & Amie Zipursky



Creative Excellence Award - U.S. International Film and Video Festival, 2007

The documentary *My Opposition - The Diaries of Friedrich Kellner* tells the story of two courageous and determined men. The first, Friedrich Kellner, a political activist who did all he could to stop the Nazis from obtaining power. The second, his grandson, Robert Scott Kellner who to this day uses his grandfather's diaries to alert people to the dangers of totalitarian ideologies. As a justice inspector during the Third Reich Friedrich Kellner did the only thing he could do, continue to refuse to join the Nazi Party, even at personal risk to himself, and to his wife, while secretly recording the horrific atrocities of the Nazi regime. Interwoven with Friedrich Kellner's story are two others: that of his errant son, Fred, who becomes caught up in Nazi ideology; and the dramatic story of Robert Scott, Kellner's grandson, who is abandoned as a child, joins the U.S. Navy at the age of seventeen, and goes to Germany in search of his family eventually devoting himself to bringing the diary to the attention of the public and to using its message to counter neo-Nazism and anti-Semitism.



Thursday, April 3 7:30 p.m.

The First Time I Was 20

La Premiere Fois Que Ja'i Eu 20 Ans
France, 2004
French, English subtitles
97 minutes
Director: Lorraine Levy



AGIS Gold Medal - Giffoni International Film Festival, 2005

It's the swinging sixties in the suburbs of Paris. Hannah, a *zaftig* 16 year-old played by the charming Marilou Berry auditions for her school's all-male jazz band. Though the odds are against her, she uses her brains, talent, and perseverance to overcome sexism and anti-Semitism. Lorraine Levy's impressive debut feature celebrates misfits, underdogs and outsiders everywhere.

Brief Nudity