



ASPER FOUNDATION

Present

Jewish Film
Festival
2018

May 22-June 10

- ⊕ Juried Awards ⊕ Talk Backs ⊕ Visiting Directors ⊕
- Off-site Films ⊕ Opening & Closing Night Receptions ⊕















Winnipeg Free Press

JEWISH POST & NEWS

And Much More!

Tickets: radyjcc.com | 204-477-7510





Opening Night Film & Reception:

Itzhak

Tuesday, May 22, 7:00 pm

Talk Back with James Manishen, Artistic Operations Associate of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra

See page 8



Venues

All films and events are held at Berney Theatre Rady Jewish Community Centre - 123 Doncaster St Except for **Shorts on Sherbrook Film Crawl**: Handsome Daughter - 61 Sherbrook Ave The Tallest Poppy - 685 Westminister Ave

Purchase Your Tickets at:



Morley Blankstein
Architectural Film Series:

Moshe Safdie: The Power of Architecture

Monday, May 28, 7:30 pm

See page 13



Centrepiece Film & Reception:

Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel

Wednesday, May 30, 7:00 pm

Josh Zeid, former professional baseball player, in conversation with Rabbi Matthew Leibl See page 7



Spotlight Film & Reception:

Nana

Wednesday, June 6, 7:00 pm

Director Serena Dykman speaking with writer Holly Harris

See page 15



Closing Night Film & Reception:

The Testament

Sunday, June 10, 7:00 pm

Guest speaker: Director Amichai Greenberg

See page 18

Tickets

M Member
NM Non-member
S Student

5 Pack \$43 M **\$52** NM **\$36** S **10 Pack \$78** M **\$100** NM **\$70** S Festival Pass
Access to 21 Films!
\$170 M
\$205 NM

Individual Tickets: \$9.50 M \$11.50 NM \$8 S

All Tickets: Prices include GST | No refunds or exchanges | Rush seating

5 and 10 Packs: Tickets must be selected in advance upon purchase | Excludes Film Crawl on June 5 **Festival Pass:** Pass holders must arrive minimum 15 minutes before start time to ensure seating | Limited tickets available | Excludes Film Crawl on June 5



An Act of Defiance Friday, June 8 | 5:00 pm

South Africa/Netherlands | 2017 | English, Afrikaans with English subtitles | Director: Jean van de Velde | Historical

Narrative | 124 minutes

In this riveting historical drama, 10 political activists (including Nelson Mandela and his inner circle of Black and Jewish supporters) face a possible death sentence for conspiracy to commit sabotage after they are arrested by the apartheid South African government during a raid in the town of Rivonia in the summer of 1963. Bram Fischer, a sympathetic lawyer, risks his career and freedom to defend these men, attempting to hide the fact that he, too, frequently convened on the farm where they were arrested.

Cape Town & Winelands International Film Festival, Best Screenplay, 2017

Viewers of An Act of Defiance will want to visit the Canadian Museum for Human Rights' new exhibit Mandela: Struggle For Freedom in collaboration with South Africa's Apartheid Museum, opening June 8.

Big SoniaSunday, May 27 | 2:00 pm Monday, June 4 | 1:00 pm

USA | 2017 | English | Directors: Leah Warshawski and Todd Soliday | Documentary/Family Relations | 93 minutes

In the last store in a defunct shopping mall, 91-year-old Sonia Warshawski; great-grandmother, businesswoman, and Holocaust survivor – runs the tailor shop she's owned for more than 30 years. But when she's served an eviction notice, the specter of retirement prompts Sonia to further resist her harrowing past as a refugee and witness to genocide. A poignant story of generational trauma and healing, Big Sonia also offers a laugh-out-loudfunny portrait of the power of love to triumph over bigotry, and the power of truth-telling to heal us all.

Barcelona International Film Festival, Winner Grand Jury Prize - Best Documentary, 2017



Moderated by Méira Cook

Méira was born in Johannesburg and is an award-winning poet, novelist, and literary critic.



Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story Friday, May 25 | 5:00 pm

USA | 2017 | English | Director: Alexandra Dean | Documentary | 90 minutes

In the Golden Days of Hollywood Hedy Lamarr was screen gold. Her extraordinary beauty was her calling card. But what hardly anyone knew was that the Austrian Lamarr (neé Hedwig Kiesler) born to wealthy cultured assimilated Jews, was a scientist who spent time off set inventing. While World War II was raging in Europe, Lamarr and composer George Antheil developed a radio guidance system for Allied torpedoes using frequencyhopping technology to defeat the threat of jamming by the Axis powers. Her inventions were the forerunner of Bluetooth and Wi-Fi. This fascinating documentary includes interviews about how Lamarr struggled to overcome a one-dimensional reputation and make people get past her face.

New York Film Critics, Best Documentary, 2017

Bye Bye Germany Es war einmal in Deutschland Thursday, June 7 | 7:30 pm

Germany/Luxembourg/Belgium | 2017 | German with English subtitles | Director: Sean Garbarski | Comedy/Drama | 102 minutes

The end of WWII finds suave smooth-talking entrepreneur David Bermann recruiting fellow Holocaust survivors to sell overpriced "luxury" linens to guilt-ridden Germans. Mixing madcap adventures with searing post-war examinations, this bittersweet movie is about grappling with a painful past while rediscovering life's pleasures. Based on co-screenwriter Michel Bergmann's debut novel *The Traveling Salesmen*, and his own, often funny, family history of Jews left behind in Germany after the war.

Norwegian International Film Festival, Audience Award Winner, Best Film, 2017



The Cakemaker

HaOfe MeBerlin Tuesday, May 29 1:00 pm Sunday, June 3 4:00 pm

Germany/Israel | 2017 | English, German, Hebrew with English subtitles Director: Ophir Raul Grazier Narrative Drama | 104 minutes

During one of his many business trips to Berlin. Israeli Oren visits a café and falls instantly in love - both with its cakes and with Thomas, the baker who makes them. The two start a secret affair, which ends abruptly when Oren dies in a car crash in Jerusalem. Grief-stricken. Thomas travels to Jerusalem, and starts working at a local café, owned by Oren's widow Anat. who is oblivious to the real reason that brought Thomas to her. As their relationship deepens, pressure from Oren's religious family rises for Anat.

Winner Best Director, Jerusalem Film Festival, 2017



Die Unischtbaren

Germany | 2017 | German with English subtitles | Director: Claus Rafle | Historical Drama | 110 minutes

June 1943, and the Third Reich infamously declares Berlin judenfrei free of Jews. But at that moment, there are 7,000 Jews still living there - hiding in attics, basements and warehouses, with some of them protected by courageous Berliners. This innovative. "hybrid" film interweaves dramatic re-enactments with actual testimony to bring edge-of-the-seat suspense to the screen to tell the story of four of these young men and women trying to remain "invisible" in Berlin by using their own ingenuity to stay alive, while also helping in the fight to bring the Nazis down.

Winner Best US Narrative Feature: Best New Narrative Director, Tribeca Film Festival, 2017



Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel



Mediesday, may 30 1 7.00 pm

Josh Zeid, former American Professional baseball player will be in attendance. Josh was pitcher for Team Israel.

Moderated by Rabbi Matthew Leibl of Congregation Shaarey Zedek, former broadcaster of TSN 1290 Radio.



USA | 2018 | English | Directors: Seth Kramer, Daniel A. Miller and Jeremy Newberger | Documentary | 87 minutes

Israel's baseball team was the underdog of underdogs when they made it to the finals of the 2017 World Baseball Championships in Korea. With a lineup that features Jewish American Major League ballplayers like ex-New York Mets first baseman Ike Davis, ex-Houston Astro Josh Zeid, and ex-Braves catcher Ryan Lavarnway, no one expected Team Israel to make it as far as they did. Most of these

players hadn't had much exposure to Judaism, let alone been to Israel. Heading Home follows the players on their first trip to Israel, and hopefully Israel's first baseball championship. While throwing curve balls, turning double plays, and stealing home are everyday occurrences for these Jewish baseball players, Heading Home steals the game and hearts of everyone who loves the game.

Tsrae

Itzhak



Opening Night Film & Reception

Tuesday, May 22 | 7:00 pm

James Manishen, Artistic Operations Associate of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra



USA | 2017 | English | Director: Alison Chernick | Documentary | 80 minutes

This intimate and enchanting documentary of violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman takes us from the first years of the boy born to non-musical Polish Immigrants in pre-Israel Tel Aviv, to Julliard School in New York and then to the great stages of concert music. The movie also delves into Perlman's daily physical struggles resulting from

the polio he contracted as a child. Perlman's violin playing transcends mere performance to evoke the celebrations and struggles of real life. From Schubert to Strauss, Bach to Brahms, and Mozart to making soup for pal Alan Alda, this feel good film is a portrait of a maestro and a real mensch.

Talk

Winner Audience Awards Atlanta & Miami Jewish Film Festivals, 2018

Reception following screening with violinist, Jeremy Buzash, Violinist, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra



Keep the Change Thursday, June 7 | 1:00 pm Sunday, June 10 | 2:00 pm

USA | 2017 | English | Director: Rachel Israel | Comedy/Drama | 94 minutes

A romantic-comedy set in a world where the idea of "normal" is a moving needle. Keep the Change tells the story of David Polansky who is living in modern day New York, struggling to come to terms with his high functioning autism. David is obsessed with being perceived as normal, thanks in part to his demanding and judgmental parents. When David is forced to attend an autism support group at the JCC, he wants nothing to do with the other members until he meets Sarah who exudes positivity and confidence. At first irked by her quirky and outgoing personality, he soon falls for her. But when David brings Sarah home to meet his family their romance is challenged.

Jury Award, Best U.S. Narrative Feature, Tribeca Film Festival, 2018

Laces Friday, May 25 | 1:00 pm Saturday, June 2 | 8:00 pm

USA | 2016 | Drama | Hebrew with English subtitles | Director: Yaakov Goldwasser | 85 minutes

After the death of his mother, Gadi a 38-year-old man living with special needs, has to stay with Reuven, the crusty, set-in-his way father he barely knows. Reuven abandoned the family, when Gadi was a boy. Gadi has always been determined to live a meaningful life, and tries hard to insinuate himself into the people and places in Reuven's world. Now Reuven discovers his kidnevs are failing and Gadi wants to donate one of his own kidneys to help save his father's life. Gadi. who recently lost his mother, is afraid of losing his father and new extended family as well. This presents a moral dilemma to the transplant committee. The film's portrayal of a relationship full of love, rejection and co-dependency, also manages to shed some light on the importance of human life and human connection.





SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

MAY 22





Off-site films

7:00 PM Itzhak

Opening Night
Film & Reception
Guest Speaker:
ames Manishen

MAY 27

2:00 PM Big Sonia

7:30 PM Sammy Davis Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me **MAY 28**

1:00 PM Longing

7:30 PM Moshe Safdie: The Power of Architecture

Morley Blankstein Architecture Film Series MAY 29

1:00 PM The Cakemaker

JUNE 3

1:00 PM Shelter

4:00 Cakemaker

7:30 PM The Wedding Plan **JUNE 4**

1:00 PM Big Sonia

7:30 PM A Quiet Heart **JUNE 5**

1:00 PM The Wedding Plan

8:15 PM

Shorts on Sherbrook Film Crawl

JUNE 10

2:00 PM Keep the Change

7:00 The Testament

Closing Night
Film & Reception
Guest Speaker:
Amichai Greenberg



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WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY **SATURDAY MAY 24 MAY 23 MAY 26 MAY 25** 7:30 PM 1:00 PM 8:00 PM Simon & Maktub Laces **Theodore** 5:00 PM **Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr** Story **JUNE 1** JUNE 2 **MAY 30 MAY 31** 7:30 PM 8:00 PM 1:00 PM 5:00 PM Maktub The Museum The Invisibles Laces Talk Back with 7:00 PM Robert Enright **Heading Home:** and Alison Gillmor The Tale of Team Israel Centrepiece Film & Reception Guest Speaker: **Josh Zeid** Moderated by Rabbi Matthew Leibl **JUNE 7 IUNE 8 JUNE 9 JUNE 6** 1:00 PM 1:00 PM **8 PM** Longing Sammy Davis Ir.: Keep the I've Gotta Be Me Change

1:00 PM The Testament 7:00 PM

Nana Spotlight Film & Reception Serena Dykman Moderated by Holly Harris

7:30 PM **Bye Bye** Germany

5:00 PM An Act of **Defiance** Talk Back with Méria Cook



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Except for Shorts on Sherbrook Film Crawl on Tuesday, June 5, 8:15 pm:

Handsome Daughter - 61 Sherbrook Ave The Tallest Poppy - 685 Westminster Ave

Tickets & Information: radyjcc.com | 204-477-7510



Longing

Ga'agua Monday, May 28 | 1:00 pm Saturday, June 9 | 8:00 pm

Israel | 2017 | Hebrew with English subtitles | Director: Savi Gabizon | Drama | 100 minutes

Winner of the 2017 Venice Film Festival's Audience Award and Jerusalem Film Festival's Audience Award, acclaimed Israeli writer/director Savi Gabizon's affecting drama centers on a middle-aged Israeli bachelor who is forced to evaluate his life choices when he discovers an ex-girlfriend. Ronit, had given birth to his son 20 years before. At first glance, middle-aged Ariel has it made: established, well-to-do, single, and no apparent worries. But that eveopener is only the first in a series of winding revelations that will have unpredictable consequences for people Ariel has yet to meet and for his own understanding of himself and his world. For Ariel, the days immediately following Ronit's disclosures are filled with activity, both literal and emotional. His need to know about a son. he never knew he had propels him into communities, families, and circumstances that are foreign and unexpected. Fueled by remarkable, rich performances from two of Israel's most accomplished actors, Shai Avivi as Ariel, and Assi Levy as Ronit, Gabizon's film is a deep, moving black comedy that speaks to the... yes... longing, in all of us.

Winner of Best Screenplay, Ophir Awards, Israel, 2017

Maktub

Saturday, May 26 | 8:00 pm Wednesday, May 30 | 1:00 pm

Israel | 2017 | Hebrew with English subtitles | Director: Oded Raz | Comedy/ Drama | 100 minutes

Israel's number one comedy in 2017 tells the hilarious, moving tale of two small-time criminal enforcers whose beat is to terrorize upscale Israeli restaurant owners. "Maktub" means fate, and the destiny of these two small-time hoodlums for a Jerusalem mob radically changes when they survive a suicide bombing. Grateful to be alive, they decide to redeem themselves by secretly fulfilling the prayers left by people between the sacred stones of the Western Wall. In keeping with the delinquent ways they know, they naturally steal the notes. This politically incorrect romantic comedy caper will have you falling for these two minor thugs.

Official Selections, Palm Springs & Chicago International Film Festivals, 2018

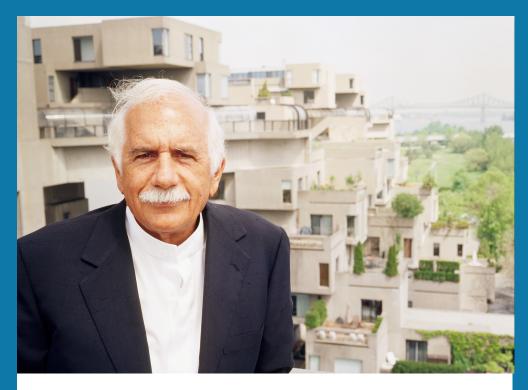
The Morley Blankstein Architecture Film Series

Presents

Moshe Safdie: The Power of Architecture

Monday, May 28 | 7:30 pm

Presented by the Rady JCC and the Winnipeg Architecture Foundation. Morley Blankstein was a well-known architect, community leader and philanthropist.



Canada | 2005 | English | Director: Donald Winkler | Documentary | 95 minutes

This fascinating portrait film celebrates the life and work of Moshe Safdie FAIA by delving into his overall and outstanding contribution to the field of architecture, from Habitat 67 to the United States Holocaust

Memorial Museum, Yad Vashem and Mamilla in Jerusalem, from the masterplan for the city of Modi'in to the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. Director Winkler explores what makes each of Safdie's designs unique.



The Museum Ha'mu'zeon Thursday, May 31 | 7:30 pm

Israel/USA | 2017 | Hebrew with English subtitles | Director: Ran Tal | Documentary | 91 minutes

Ran Tal's magnificent new film The Museum with its unprecedented look behind the scenes at the Israel Museum in Ierusalem isn't a conventional documentary about the history of the museum, or its world class collection of 500,000 objects (including the Dead Sea Scrolls): it's a lyrical work in and of itself, a poetic celebration of storytelling and humanity. Tal is one of Israel's most accomplished and creative documentarians and his genius lies in revealing the essence of a place or an idea. Gorgeously photographed, poignant, and wry, The Museum artfully curates moments and details, introducing us to a diverse range of curators, artists, guards, and visitors from around the world, each with a story to tell.

A Quiet Heart Lev Shaket Meod Monday, June 4 | 7:30 pm

Israel | 2016 | Hebrew with English subtitles | Director: Eitan Anner | Drama/Thriller | 92 minutes

In present day Jerusalem, a city increasingly dominated by religious fanaticism, Naomi, a secular young woman seeks refuge from the pressure of her life as a concert pianist. Despite her intentions to stay alone, Naomi quickly makes two unexpected connections- one with a musically gifted Ultra-Orthodox young boy who lives in her building and the other, with Fabrizio, a charismatic Italian monk and organist. While these relationships allow Naomi to reconnect with her love of music and sense of meaning, they also make her a target in her new community. Faced with escalating isolation and violence, Naomi must learn to use music as a bridge to overcome towering religious barriers.

Winner, Best Screenplay, Haifa International Film Festival 2016

Talk Back

Post-film conversation with Robert Enright, cultural critic, founder of *Border Crossings Magazine* and Professor in Art Criticism at University of Guelph and Alison Gillmor, writer and critic.



Nana



Spotlight Film & Reception

Wednesday, June 6 7:00 pm

Guest Speaker: Serena Dykman, Director, Nana Moderated by Holly Harris, Winnipeg-Based Writer



Belgian/Poland | 2017 | French with English subtitles | Director: Serena Dykman | Documentary/Family History | 100 minutes

Filmmaker Serena Dykman was 11 when her Nana died. But her memories of her charismatic and wise grandmother, with her charming Polish-accented French, remained crystal clear as does the importance of her story. Maryla Michalowski-Dyamant was born in Poland, and survived Ravensbruck, Malchow, and Auschwitz, where she was the forced translator of the 'Angel of Death', Dr. Mengele. She dedicated her post-war life in Belgium to publicly

speaking about her survival to new generations. In a world where racism and antisemitism are on the rise her story becomes more urgent. In Dykman's documentary, using archived interviews Maryla gave, and enganging the point of view of people who knew her, especially her daughter Alice, Maryla's work continues.

Winner, Human Spirit Documentary, Chagrin Documentary Film Festival, 2017



Shelter Mistor Sunday, June 3 | 1:00 pm

Sammy Davis Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me

Sunday, May 27 | 7:30 pm Friday, June 8 | 1:00 pm

USA | 2017 | English | Director: Samuel D. Pollard | Documentary | 100 minutes

A rousing tribute to the iconic songand-dance man in all his complexities and contradictions Sammy Davis Ir.: I've Gotta Be Me explores the life and art of this uniquely gifted entertainer whose trajectory blazed across shifting political climates and flash points of American society from the Depression through the 1980s. Featuring a glittering line up of interviews with stars such as Billy Crystal, Norman Lear, Jerry Lewis, Whoopi Goldberg, Quincy Jones and Kim Novak, never before seen personal photos, and, of course, footage of his electric performances on television and stage, this film will leave you inspired and delighted. Not to mention tapping your toes as you leave the theatre!

Nominated Best Documentary Feature, Philadelphia Film Festival, 2017 Israel/Germany/France | 2017 | Hebrew, German, English, Arabic with English subtitles | Director: Eran Riklis | Drama/Thriller | 93 minutes

A former Israeli Mossad agent is pulled out of an early retirement to play "babysitter" to "Mona" a Lebanese Hezbollah informant who fled Beirut and has undergone facial reconstruction surgery to be able to begin a new life. The two are brought together for two weeks in a quiet apartment in Hamburg, Germany that acts as their safe house and refuge from terrorists looking to kill them. The intimacy of the relationship that develops between them is soon threatened by the terror engulfing their separate worlds. In this game of deception, beliefs are questioned and loyalties are tested as their fates take a surprising turn in this suspense-laden, elegant neo-noir.

Winner, Best Actress; Best Music, Ophir Awards, 2017



Simon & Theodore Simon et Théodore Wednesday, May 23 | 7:30 pm



The Wedding Plan Laavor et hakir Sunday, June 3 | 7:30 pm Tuesday, June 5 | 1:00 pm

France | 2017 | French with English subtitles | Director: Mikael Buch | Narrative | 84 minutes

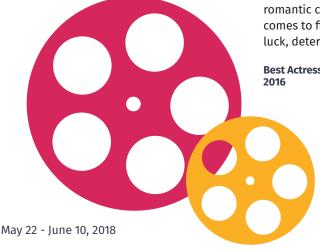
Simon is about to become a father. How can this man, estranged from his pregnant rabbi wife, who walks to the rhythm of his own beat, and who can barely take care of himself live up to the responsibility of parenthood? He meets Théodore, an endearing, if bad-tempered, teen being raised by a single mom, and the two rebels set out on a crazy quest toward accepting themselves.

Israel | 2016 | Hebrew with English subtitles | Director: Rama Burshtein | Comedy/Romance | 110 minutes

The Wedding Plan is a poignant and funny romantic comedy about love. marriage and faith in life's infinite possibilities. At 32, Michal is finally looking forward to the comfort and security of marriage, when she is blindsided by her fiancé's decision to call off the wedding with only a month's notice. Unwilling to return to lonely single life, Michal, an Orthodox Jew, trusts that G-d will supply her a Mr. Right by the wedding date, and continues with her wedding plans. This romantic comedy tells us that when it comes to finding love, its equal parts luck, determination, and faith.

Best Actress; Best Screenplay, Ophir Awards, 2016

17



The Testament - Haedut



Closing Night Film & Reception

Sunday, June 10 | 7:00 pm

Guest Speaker: Amichai Greenberg, Director, Testament



The Testament - Haedut

Wednesday, June 6 | 1:00 pm

Israel/Austria | 2017 | Hebrew, German with English subtitles | Director: Amichai Greenberg | Narrative/Suspense | 88 minutes

Yoel is a leading Holocaust scholar, whose own life has been dedicated to Orthodox Jewish tradition.

Working from his state-of-the-art research institute in Jerusalem, he is in the midst of waging a very public legal battle against powerful and uncooperative forces in Austria concerning a brutal massacre of Jews that took place in the village of Lensdorf. While investigating the incident, Yoel examines classified

testimonies of Holocaust survivors and uncovers a shocking revelation that hits him personally, and undermines everything that defines him. Early in the film Yoel establishes himself as a historian deeply opposed to any relativism around the idea of objective truth. Now he is forced to grapple with the idea of fact, on a deeply personal level.

Best Feature Film, Haifa International Film Festival, 2017

First Ever Shorts on Sherbrook Film Crawl

Join us for views and brews, chats and laughs...

Tuesday, June 5 | 8:15 pm

First stop: The Handsome Daughter - 61 Sherbrook St Next stop: The Tallest Poppy - 685 Westminster Ave

Screenings of award-winning, thought-provoking art-house shorts

Tickets: \$10

Includes all films plus one drink at each venue and nibbles woodrow Pl 18+ The Tallest
Poppy

The Handsome





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