THE ASPER FOUNDATION

Rady JCC

2025
WINNIPEG INTERNATIONAL
JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
MAY 22 - JUNE 7
WINNIPEG | MANITOBA | CANADA

Pictured: The Glory of Life | May 23 | 5:30 p.m.

AWARD-WINNING FILMS | VISITING DIRECTORS
SPECIAL EVENTS | MATINEE & EVENING SCREENINGS

Berney Theatre - Rady JCC
123 Doncaster Street
www.radyjcc.com

Beneficiary Agency of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg

TICKETS

UPDATE

WELCOME TO THE 2025 WINNIPEG INTERNATIONAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL!
BRINGING ART AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER.

We are excited to present a programme of fantastic Canadian and international films including several premiere screenings. The films we have chosen encompass the joy, pain, humour, richness and creativity of the Jewish experience. Storytelling is at the heart of Jewish culture. And, like you, we are passionate about the power of film to inspire, educate, entertain, spark conversations and build bridges within and outside of the Jewish community. We know that you'll enjoy watching these exceptional films – dramas, comedies, docs, and musicals – together on the large screen.

VENUES

All screenings will be held at the Berney Theatre at the Rady Jewish Community Centre, 123 Doncaster Street, with the following exceptions:

- My Mom, God and Sylvie Vartan: Monday, May 26, 7:00 p.m. at the Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain, 340 Provencher Boulevard
- Shorts on Sherbrook: Monday, June 3, 7:30 p.m. at The Handsome Daughter, 61 Sherbrook Street

RADY JCC STAFF

Laura Marjovsky	Director of Programming
Karen Burshtein	Jewish Film Festival Producer
Roberta Malam	Program Department Assistant
Tomer Levy	Engagement Coordinator
Gwendolyn Penner	Coordinator of Graphic Design & Digital Content
Jerry Augustin	Technical Coordinator

THE ASPER FOUNDATION

Anita Wortzman	President
Jeff Morry	Senior Director of Strategy and Programming

THANK YOU

A huge thanks to our dedicated and wonderful volunteers and to the Rady JCC Membership Services and Finance Department Staff.

TICKETS

SCAN FOR TICKETS:

UPDATE

	GENERAL PRICE	EXCLUSIVE RADY MEMBER PRICE
INDIVIDUAL	$13.00	$9.75
5 PACK*	$52.00	$39.00
12 PACK*	$117.00	$87.75
FULL PACK*	$195.00	$146.25
AT THE DOOR	$14.50 *including GST*	$11.00 *including GST*

25% OFF FOR RADY JCC MEMBERS

*** Not including Shorts on Sherbrook**
GST not included (except for tickets at the door)
No refunds or exchanges; Rush seating

LEGEND: Special Event · Matinee Film · Off-site location

WIJFF OPENING NIGHT 2025

Thursday, May 22
7:00 p.m.

Feature | Israel | 2024 | Director: Shemi Zarhin | Hebrew, Arabic w/Eng subtitles | 125 minutes

A married couple must confront painful truths in this graceful, insightful drama from director Shemi Zarhin (*Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi*). Effie and Sassi are a Mizrachi couple living in Israel's Upper Galilee, still in love after years together. Effie, in her early 50s, works as a physical therapist and music teacher by day. Her husband, Sassi, 20 years her senior, also works multiple part time jobs. The two make bourekas at night to sell to a local restaurant. The couple never stop working and both look exhausted. The question is "Why?" Starring legendary Israeli actors Sasson Gabbai (*Shtisel, The Band's Visit*) and Asi Levy (*Aviva My Love*), Bliss is a beautiful exploration of expressions of love, the strong bonds of family, and Israel's rich cultural diversity.

POST-FILM RECEPTION: **Join us after the film for a special opening night reception.**

"If you're looking for a film that's as rich in emotion as it is in storytelling, Bliss is a must" – www.hungry416.com

Friday, May 23
5:30 p.m.

Historical drama |Germany | 2024
Directors: Judith Kaufmann and Georg Maas
German w/Eng subtitles | 98 minutes

In the last year of his life, ailing author Franz Kafka finds love, and, at long last, happiness with political activist Dora Diamant who works at the Jewish People's Home. Pitch perfect performances by Sabin Tambrea and Henriette Confurius as Kafka and Dora and beautiful costumes and sets that capture the Weimar Germany period round out this engrossing testimony to the power of love at any time in a person's life.

"Told so centrally and on such a grand scale in Kaufmann's exquisite images….that the myth of Kafka begins to disappear behind the man Kafka."

– the-spot-mediafilm.com

Saturday, May 24
8:00 p.m.

Comedy | USA | 2024 | Director: Daniel Robbins | English | 84 minutes

Kyra Sedgwick leads an ensemble cast in this hilarious film about a Shabbat dinner gone wrong. Very wrong. David (Jon Bass) brings his fiance, Meg, (Meghan Leathers), who's in the throes of converting to Judaism, to his parents' Richard (David Paymer) and Ellen's (Sedgwick), Upper West Side home for Friday night dinner. Meg's Catholic parents from Wisconsin are coming, too, to meet his family. Things derail faster than you can say "hamotzi" when an accidental death (or is it...murder?) occurs. Fast paced, full of clever dialogue and smart snappy writing, this film promises non-stop entertainment.

"Do yourself a mitzvah and go see "Bad Shabbos." This movie is pure comedy gold!" – Imdb

MANITOBA PREMIERE

Sunday, May 25
2:00 p.m.

Narrative based on a true story |Israel | 2024
Directors: Adir Miller, Doron Paz, Yoav Paz
Hebrew and Hungarian w/Eng subtitles
120 minutes

Adir Miller is one of Israel's best known standups, but in this film he delivers a quietly powerful dramatic performance based on his own life story. Arnon Noble is a religious man with a strong bond to his mother Violetta (Tiki Dayan; *Seven Blessings*), a Holocaust survivor from Hungary who speaks at schools about how her life was saved thanks to a thin gold ring. When Violetta's health deteriorates, Arnon and his estranged daughter (Joy Rieger; *Past Life, The Other Story*) travel to her hometown to search for the ring that saved her life. The movie nicely captures the atmosphere of Budapest, but it's the relationships among the three leads that we remember most. Some solid funny one liners from Miller and an exploration of the experiences of second-generation Holocaust survivors round out this excellent, multi-layered film.

Sunday, May 25
7:00 p.m.

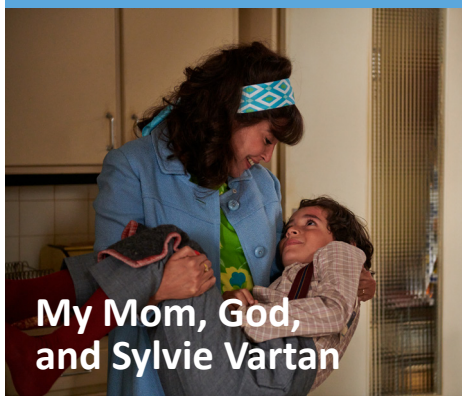
Documentary | USA | 2025 | Director: Nimrod Shapira | English | 75 minutes

Torn delves into the controversy surrounding the KIDNAPPED poster campaign, which turned first NYC streets, then streets all over the world, into unexpected battlegrounds for pro-Israel and pro-Palestine activists. What started as a seemingly simple grassroots effort to raise awareness about the 251 hostages held by Hamas, quickly escalated into an emotionally charged paper war, mirroring the complexities of the conflict overseas. *Torn* explores war, freedom of speech, art, activism, and public expression. The film acts as both a mirror and a catalyst—reflecting societal divisions while fostering empathy, introspection, and transformative conversations.

Monday, May 26
7:00 pm

EVENT PARTNER: CCFM

at CCFM
340 Provencher Boulevard



My Mom, God, and Sylvie Vartan

Drama | Canada/France | 2025 | Director: Ken Scott | French w/Eng subtitles | 102 min.

Quebec filmmaker Ken Scott's drama/ biopic is about a mother's fierce love and determination to help her physically disabled son. Set in nostalgia-tinged 1960s Paris, the first half of the film follows Esther, mother to a large family including her youngest son Roland, who is born with a club foot. Ignoring all doctors' advice, Esther vows that Roland will walk, enjoy a happy, normal childhood and have a future. As the decades pass, the film becomes less about disability and more about passion, self-discovery, and the lingering influence of a mother's love. Viewers may find similarities between *My Mom, God, and Sylvie Vartan* and the French mega- hit, *The Untouchables*. This is a film with heart with an outstanding performance by Leïla Bekhti as Esther.

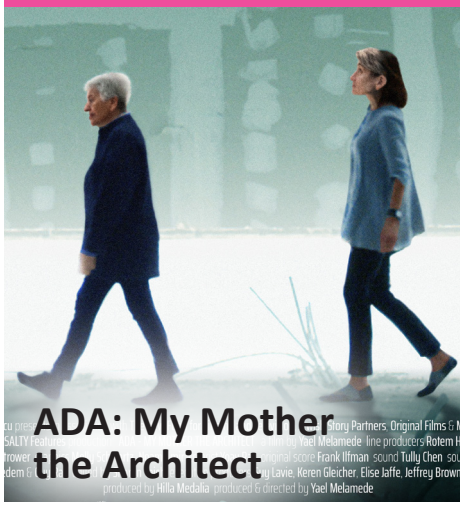
6:00 P.M.
PRE-FILM RECEPTION
Join us for a pre-film Wine and Cheese Reception

Tuesday, May 27
2:00 p.m.

Historical drama | Finland | 2024 | Director: Klaus Häro | Finnish w/Eng subtitles
85 minutes

Director Klaus Häro uses his talent for adroit, factually based films to bring us the lesser known story of Jewish refugees in Finland during WWII. Like a Finnish Oskar Schindler, the Finnish-Jewish businessman, Abraham Stiller (Ville Virtanen), risks everything to protect the refugees and the rest of Finland's small Jewish community, as Nazi influence grows in Europe. A handsomely appointed and nuanced recreation of a true story and the story of Jews in war-time Finland, which, owing to various geopolitical factors, greatly differed from others in Europe.

Tuesday, May 27
7:00 pm



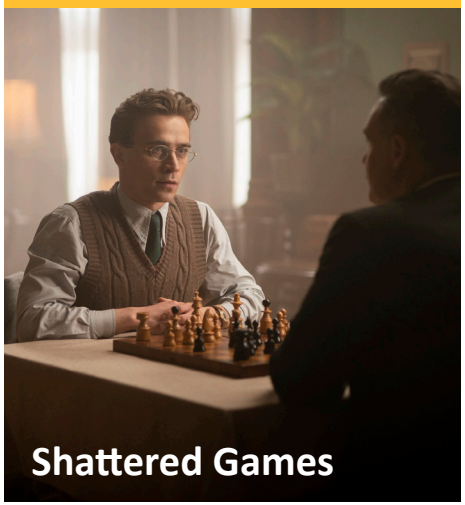
ADA: My Mother the Architect

Documentary | Israel/USA | 2024 |Director: Yael Melamede |Eng and Hebrew w/Eng subtitles | 81 minutes

Ada Karmi-Melamede is one of the most accomplished women architects in the world. (Her body of work includes the Supreme Court Building in Jerusalem.) But little is known about her outside her home country of Israel. *ADA - My Mother the Architect* is a deeply moving portrait of an extraordinary woman directed by her daughter, filmmaker and former architect, Yael Melamede, and includes raw and moving dialogue between the mother and daughter and an exploration of the realities of career vs motherhood.

POST-FILM INTERVIEW
WIJFF is pleased to present a pre-recorded interview with Ada director Yael Melamede and Winnipeg film and architecture critic Alison Gillmor, following the screening.

Wednesday, May 28
2:00 p.m.



Shattered Games

Historical Drama | Poland | 2024 | Director: Marek Bukowski | Polish w/Eng subtitles
59 minutes

Set in 1929 Warsaw, this stylish period drama tells the story of the pre-war Polish national chess team, the sport's once and forever "Golden Team." The Polish chess players stood at the forefront of the game worldwide for over a decade, but, as the Nazis begin their occupation of Poland, the fate of the team— many of whom are Jewish, including the charismatic Dawid Przepiórka and legendary Akiva Rubinstein-stands at the edge of the abyss.

SCHEDULE

THE ASPER FOUNDATION

Rady JCC

2025 WINNIPEG INTERNATIONAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

MAY 22 - JUNE 7

WINNIPEG | MANITOBA | CANADA

LEGEND

- Special Event
- Matinee
- Off-site Location -
  - Berney Theatre, Rady JCC - 123 Doncaster Street
  - Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain, 340 Provencher Blvd
  - Handsome Daughter, 61 Sherbrook Street

T	F	S
MAY 22 **7:00 PM** Bliss	**MAY 23** **5:30 PM** The Glory of Life	**MAY 24** **8:00 PM** Bad Shabbos

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
MAY 25 **2:00 PM** The Ring **7:00 PM** Torn	**MAY 26** **7:00 PM** My Mom, God, and Sylvie Vartan	**MAY 27** **2:00 PM** Never Alone **7:00 PM** ADA: My Mother the Architect	**MAY 28** **2:00 PM** Shattered Games **7:00 PM** A Nice Jewish Boy	**MAY 29** **2:00 PM** I Had the Heart **7:00 PM** The Property	**MAY 30** **5:30 PM** Charles Grodin: Rebel With a Cause	**MAY 31** **8:00 PM** The Stronghold
JUNE 1 **2:00 PM** Gazoz	**JUNE 2** *NO FILMS SHAVUOT*	**JUNE 3** **7:30 PM** Shorts on Sherbrook	**JUNE 4** **2:00 PM** Neshoma **7:00 PM** Pink Lady	**JUNE 5** **7:00 PM** The Community	**JUNE 6** **5:30 PM** Come Closer	**JUNE 7** **8:00 PM** Swedishkayt: YidLife Crisis in Stockholm

Tickets: www.radyjcc.com

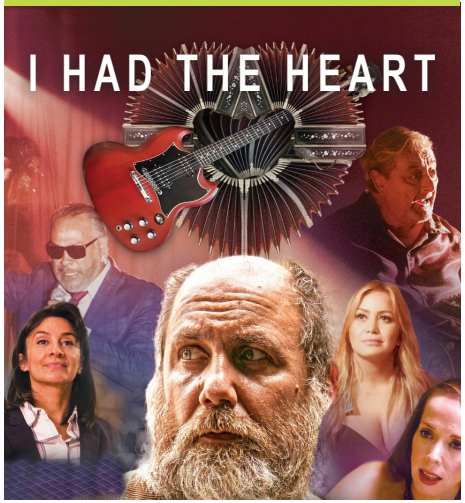
UPDATE

Wednesday, May 28
7:00 pm

Comedy/Drama | France | 2024 | Director: Noé Debré | French w/ Eng subtitles
90 minutes

A French comedy-drama about the last two Jews living in a largely immigrant Paris suburb. Michael Zindel plays Ruben Bellisha, a likeable, if aimless 27-year-old. The veteran French actress Agnès Jaoui is his ailing, housebound mother, Giselle. Unable to cope with the change of their surroundings Giselle wants her and her son to move out. But Ruben, a nice Jewish boy, beloved by the community, can't imagine any upheaval, whether changing neighbourhoods or figuring out his life. A fair bit of subterfuge ensues. *A Nice Jewish Boy* straddles comedic satire and drama, while addressing difficult realities about Jewish life in France. Bellisha's performance, at times using improvised dialogue, is career-making.

Thursday, May 29
2:00 p.m.



Comedy | Argentina | 2024 | Director: Oliver Kolker | Spanish w/Eng subtitles
106 minutes

Moti Cohen, a once-prominent Buenos Aires rock producer now in decline, seizes a chance for a comeback. Fueled partly by the need to pay for his son's Bar Mitzvah, Moti scouts for the star of a 'New Talent Contest' focusing on Tango. Fate leads him to a stuttering mechanic whom he plans to turn into Argentina's next Tango star. The director, Oliver Kolker, is a well known tango dancer who gives us insight into the world of Tango along with a warm and engaging film.

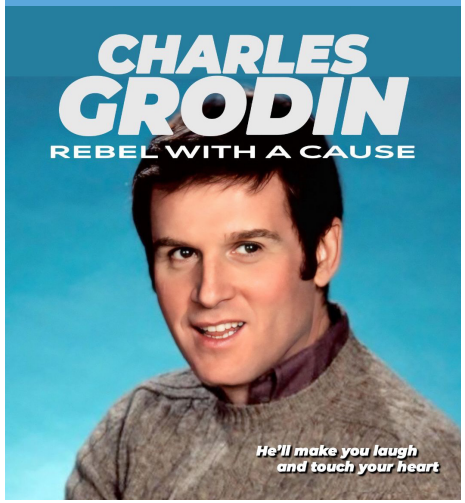
Thursday, May 29
7:00 pm

Feature | Israel, Poland | 2025 | Director: Dana Modan | English, Hebrew, and Polish w/Eng subtitles | 108 minutes

Beloved Israeli actress Rivka Michaeli stars as Regina who, with her granddaughter Mika, embarks on a journey to Poland to reclaim family property seized during World War II. Their quest quickly unravels as Regina unexpectedly decides to abandon the mission entirely. To complicate matters an annoying distant relative shows up around every corner. Just as Mika finds herself falling for a charming tour guide, Regina seizes the opportunity to pursue her own hidden agenda. Based on the graphic novel by Rutu Modan.

"An intricately woven, rich and unique story that will surely capture hearts."
– Timeout

Friday, May 30
5:30 p.m.



Documentary | USA | 2025 | Director: James L. Freedman | English | 93 minutes

The eternally sardonic, brilliant actor-co-median Charles Grodin's life and career is given the spotlight in this rich and multifaceted portrait. A master of dry wit and deadpan delivery, Grodin captivated audiences with beloved performances in *The Heartbreak Kid, Midnight Run,* and countless sharp-witted late-night TV appearances. In his later years, Grodin turned to advocate for justice and pressing social issues, using his platform as CNBC talk show host. Filled with great footage and A-list commentary, this film is an eminently watchable, fully rounded portrait of a unique performer and person.

Saturday, May 31
8:00 pm

Feature | Israel | 2024 | Director: Lior Chefetz
Hebrew w/Eng subtitles | 113 minutes

Starring Michael Aloni (*Shtisel; When Heroes Fly*). *The Stronghold* is based on a true story of an IDF outpost that suffered heavy losses during the Yom Kippur War, and which became the scene of one of Israel's most traumatic battles. Dr. Nahum Werbin (Aloni) arrives at the remote Sinai outpost wearing white sneakers and a pukka shell necklace, expecting nothing more taxing than handing out aspirin and blister cream. The outpost is commanded by Shlomo (Daniel Gad), an Orthodox soldier, who is expecting that Yom Kippur deep in the Sinai will be marked only by prayers and fasting. But when the unit soon finds itself outmanned and outgunned, moral and tactical questions arise. The film focuses on the human cost of the war and the collapse of leadership – in a painful mirroring of current challenging times.

Sunday, June 1
2:00 p.m.

Feature| Israel |2023| Director: Tommy Lang
Hebrew w/ Eng subtitles | 88 minutes

On a chilly, early spring evening in the winding streets of Tel Aviv's arty Neve Tzedek neighbourhood. Peter and Lili, two golden agers, meet up after much pressure from Nelli, a 31-year-old architect who is Lily's daughter and Peter's friend. The two walk and talk about heartbreak, missed opportunities, and their experiences as single parents, leading to the film's climax when Lily reveals a secret she's been keeping for decades. Tommy Lang's minimalist style, and cinema verité approach results in a powerful, touching, and highly watchable film.

POST-FILM RECEPTION
Join us for refreshments following the film

CANADIAN PREMIERE

Tuesday, June 3
7:30 pm

SHORTS ON SHERBROOK

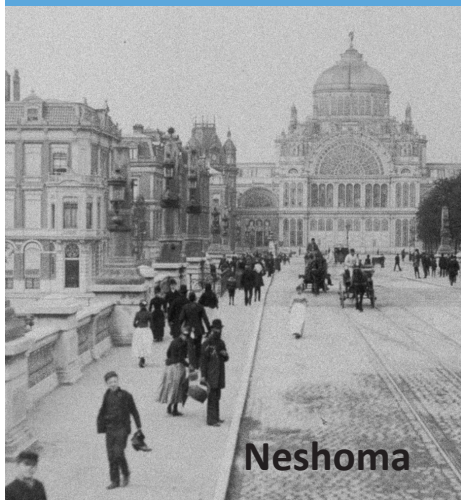
at The Handsome Daughter
61 Sherbrook Street

The days are getting longer but one day in our festival is getting "Short"er. Join us for our ever popular Shorts on Sherbrook.

We're taking over The Handsome Daughter to present four remarkable short films with a break in between for snacks and drink and socializing (all included in the ticket price).

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW.
Seating is limited and this event sells out fast!

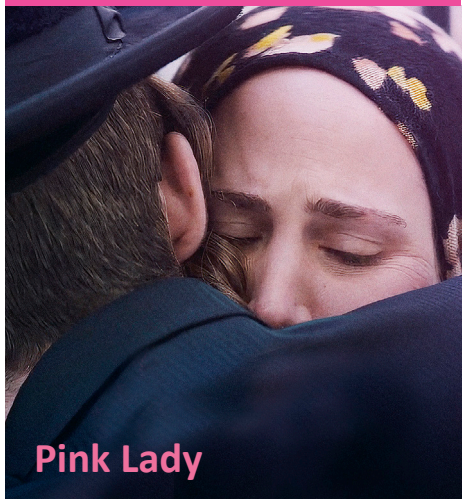
Wednesday, June 4
2:00 p.m.



Fictional documentary based on archival footage | Netherlands | 2025 | Director: Sandra Beerends | Dutch w Eng subtitles
85 minutes

A groundbreaking film at the intersection of fiction and history. *Neshoma* is set in Amsterdam between World Wars I and II, when one out of ten of the city's residents was Jewish. Pasting together real archival material and using historic testimonies from the Jewish community before World War II, the film invents a story of a 17-year old girl. Rusha lives in the Jewish Quarter, and writes letters about her life, friends, family and community to her older brother, Max, who has emigrated to the Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia. Astonishing and inventive, the film brings to life a nearly vanquished community of proud diamond cutters, haggling traders at the flea market, cabaret artists, city officials, social activists and entrepreneurs.

Wednesday, June 4
7:00 pm



Narrative | Israel | 2024 | Director: Nir Bergman | Hebrew w/Eng subtitles 106 minutes

In an ultra-Orthodox Jewish community in Jerusalem, Bati (Nur Fibak) has a seemingly perfect life. She is happily married to Lazer (Uri Blufarb) and the young couple have three children. But their world begins to crumble when Lazer is blackmailed and Bati discovers his secret affair with his male study partner. Desperate to protect her family and keep the man she loves, she supports Lazer as he attempts to "cure" his homosexuality, while realizing her own desires. A complex, beautifully told story about the stark choices non-heterosexuals in the ultra-Orthodox world face. Bergman shows compassion for characters on all sides of the story.

"The cast is wonderful. Fibak is so good that it's hard to believe she's acting" – Jerusalem Post

Thursday, June 5
7:00 p.m.

Documentary | Israel/Ukraine | 2024 Director: Alex Osmolovsky | Ukrainian w/Eng subtitles | 65 minutes

The Community is a moving and powerful documentary about contemporary Ukrainian Jewish life in the shadow of the Russian war and in the mirror of history. The film is a passion project of award-winning Israeli director Alexander Osmolovsky who lived in Ukraine until the war. He returns with the idea of setting straight what he calls misinformation and propaganda-focusing on the Jewish community's essential role in Ukraine's struggle while exploring their experiences amidst the accusations of Nazism that have cast a shadow over the nation.

POST-FILM DISCUSSION
In-person discussion with director Alex Osmolovsky

Sneak Preview ahead of the official Canadian premiere at Toronto Jewish Film Festival

Friday, June 6
5:30 p.m.

Feature | Israel | 2024 | Director: Tom Nesher Hebrew w/ Eng subtitles | 107 minutes

Tom Nesher is a bright new light in world cinema (and the daughter of celebrated Israeli filmmaker Avi Nesher). She was recently named one of Variety's Directors to Watch. With *Come Closer*, Nesher offers us a powerful and unforgettable film drawn from personal experience. A young woman's life is shattered when her beloved younger brother dies in a tragic accident. Consumed by grief, Eden takes increasingly desperate measures to fill the void left by his absence. Her journey takes a passionate and dangerous turn when she discovers her brother had a secret girlfriend. Stunning cinematography, a talented cast who deliver compelling performances, and a haunting soundtrack complete this magnificent first feature.

"A stunning and powerful journey of grief, guilt, and fear, Tom Nesher's feature directorial debut is fearless and genuine."
– thatshelf.com

CLOSING NIGHT
Saturday, June 7
8:00 pm

Documentary/Comedy | Canada | 2025 Directors: Eli Batalion, Jamie Elman | English, Swedish and Yiddish | 76 minutes

Eli Batalion and Jamie Elman, the duo behind the popular Canadian comedy web series YidLife Crisis, travel to Sweden where, much to their surprise, they discover a vibrant Yiddish culture. In fact, the Scandinavian country has made Yiddish one of its official minority languages. The comedy team learns about historic and contemporary Jewish life and hosts Yiddish language events and concerts. A funny and heartfelt portrait of a lesser known but resilient community.

PRE AND POST-FILM PERFORMANCES
Live musical performance by YidLife Crisis

PLUS POST-FILM RECEPTION

THE ASPER FOUNDATION

Rady JCC

2025

WINNIPEG INTERNATIONAL

JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

MAY 22-JUNE 7

WINNIPEG | MANITOBA | CANADA

Tickets:

www.radyjcc.com

204.477.7510