

BOSTON JEWISH FILM

FESTIVAL



31st ANNUAL FESTIVAL
November 6-17, 2019 / bostonjfilm.org





BJ FF

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SAFE SPACES

Josh (Justin Long, *Dodgeball*) has a lot going on. His job as an adjunct writing professor is being threatened after a student accused him of being inappropriate in class. His beloved grandmother (Lynn Cohen) is in the hospital, meaning his divorced parents (Fran Drescher, *The Nanny*, and Richard Schiff, *The West Wing*) and siblings (including Kate Berlant, *Sorry to Bother You*) need to all come together. This candid and often-humorous take on how we deal with modern crises, both unexpected and self-inflicted, is a testament to the importance of family—no matter how dysfunctional.

Followed by a conversation with Actor Justin Long and Director Daniel Schechter

**WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 6
7:00 PM**

Coolidge Corner Theatre

Director Daniel Schechter
Narrative, 2019, USA, 93 min
English
Boston Premiere

*Join us for a Passholder Party
at Osaka Restaurant following
the screening.*





MIDFEST

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 13
7:00 PM

Coolidge Corner Theatre

Director Arkady Kogan
Documentary, 2019, Israel
84 min, Russian with subtitles
New England Premiere

FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM

The remarkable life of famous human rights activist, Natan Sharansky. In 1977, Sharansky was charged with spying for America, treason, and anti-Soviet agitation and was sentenced to 13 years of forced labor. No single person symbolizes the era more than he, a "Refusenik" who defied the entire Soviet system in his fight for freedom and national identification. After spending years in prison, he ultimately prevailed, paving the way for all of Soviet Jewry.

Followed by a conversation with writer Rachel Sharansky Danziger, Natan Sharansky's daughter, and writer William Novak.

Sponsored by Alan Metzer



SPOTLIGHT SCREENING

PICTURE OF HIS LIFE

To photograph some of the most fearsome creatures on Earth, Amos Nachoum has gone face to face with anacondas, giant leopard seals, great white sharks, orcas, and crocodiles. But at age 65, Nachoum, one of the greatest underwater photographers of all time, is about to face his ultimate challenge: photographing a polar bear, up close, without any protection. As he prepares for his biggest mission in the Canadian Arctic, Nachoum faces past traumas in an intimate story of dedication, sacrifice, and personal redemption.

*Followed by a conversation with
Director Dani Menkin.*

Co-Presented with

ReelAbilities
FILM FESTIVAL

BOSTON

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 16
7:30 PM**

New England Aquarium

Directors Dani Menkin
and Yonatan Nir
Documentary, 2019,
Israel/Canada/USA, 71 min
English, Hebrew, and Inuktitut
with subtitles

Massachusetts Premiere



THE RABBI GOES WEST

When Rabbi Chaim Brook moved from Brooklyn to Bozeman, Montana, he left a large Chabad Hasidic community. In all of Montana there are just 2,000 Jewish families—and Rabbi Chaim is determined to put a mezuzah on each of their doorposts. While Rabbi Chaim builds his community, becoming beloved by his congregants, some of the state's Jews believe his outreach activities pose a risk to their denominations of Judaism. At the same time, the threat of anti-Semitism, including possible attacks from neo-Nazis, looms.

Followed by a conversation with Protagonist Rabbi Chaim Brook and Directors Amy Geller and Gerald Peary.

**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 17
7:00 PM**

Somerville Theatre

Directors Amy Geller
and Gerald Peary
Documentary, 2019,
USA, 78 min
English
New England Premiere



TLV TV BINGE

TV today rivals movies in both content and quality and Israeli television is setting the standard across the world. Join us as we take two popular new Israeli TV shows off the small screen and onto the big screen. Spend all afternoon binging or come for just one show.

Shows Include:

AUTONOMIES

Full Series

From the creator of *Shtisel*, a dystopian thriller set after a brutal civil war that left Israel divided with Tel Aviv as its secular capital and Jerusalem as an Orthodox "Haredi Autonomy."

11:30 am

For more information, see page 9

TLV TV: MUNA

Season 1, Ep 1-3

This new show by actress/musician Mira Awad, follows Muna, an Israeli-Arab photographer living in Tel Aviv.

4 pm

For more information, see page 17

Muna will be followed by a conversation with Producer Mira Awad.

EVENT TIME

Sunday, November 17, 11:30 am
Brattle Theatre

EYE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

In a world faced with a changing climate, filmmakers are shining light on some of the issues most pressing to our planet. Join us for three films that focus on our environment.

PICTURE OF HIS LIFE

Amos Nachoum has photographed some of the most fearsome creatures on Earth. But he is about to face his ultimate challenge: photographing a polar bear, up close, in its' endangered habitat.

Saturday, November 16, 7:30 pm
New England Aquarium

Sunday, November 17, 11:30 am
Museum of Fine Arts (Alfond Auditorium)

For more information, see page 19

SUSTAINABLE NATION

Three remarkable Israelis use innovative solutions to do their part in bringing clean water to an increasingly thirsty planet.

Sunday, November 10, 7 pm
JCC Reimer-Goldstein Theater

For more information, see page 22

THERE ARE NO LIONS IN TEL AVIV

The story of Rabbi Doolittle, and how the Tel Aviv zoo he created became something other than an idealistic paradise over time.

Sunday, November 17, 12:30 pm
West Newton Cinema

For more information, see page 23



9TH ANNUAL FRESHFLIX SHORT FILM COMPETITION

Join us for a celebration of new voices in Jewish film with a screening of eight short films from around the world, followed by a conversation with filmmakers! For more information about the films, visit bostonjewishfilm.org.

THE BRIS OF MICHAEL MOSHE SOLOMON

Director Coral Amiga
Narrative, 2019, UK, 11 min

THE CHEESEBURGER

Director Hillary Nussbaum
Narrative, 2018, USA, 5 min

EDEK

Director Malcolm Green
Documentary, 2018, UK, 6 min

FIVE YEARS AFTER THE WAR

Directors Samuel Albaric, Ulysse Lefort, and Martin Wiklund
Documentary, 2018, France, 17 min

I'M FROM THE JEWS

Director Niv Hachlili
Narrative, 2017, Israel, 17 min

THE MASTER OF YORK

Director Kieron Quirke
Narrative, 2018, UK, 15 min

OFFSPRING

Directors Dana Keidar-Levin and Shirly Sasson-Ezer
Narrative, 2019, Israel, 19 min

TRAVELOGUE TEL AVIV

Director Samuel Patthey
Narrative, 2017, Switzerland, 6 min

EVENT TIME

Thursday, November 7, 7 pm
The Center for Arts at the Armory,
Somerville

Join other young professionals for more great films and special events:

TLV TV Binge (page 5)

THE DAMNED (page 10)

FLAWLESS (page 11)

LATTER DAY JEW (page 15)

MS. STERN (page 17)

MY POLISH HONEYMOON (page 18)

SAFE SPACES (page 20)

STANDING UP, FALLING DOWN
(page 21)





SHORT FILM PROGRAM: BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

Join us for a series of international short films about the surprises and triumphs that can happen at any point in life's journey.

BUTTERFLIES

Director Yona Rozenkier
Narrative, 2019, Israel/France, 8 min

A son picks his father up from his kibbutz and takes him on a ride through the countryside.

GEFILTE

Director Rachel Fleit
Documentary, 2018, USA, 11 min

When the Hermelin family comes together for Passover, the main star is the gefilte fish, prepared using the family recipe.

I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU

Director Matan Rochlitz
Documentary, 2018, Israel/Italy/UK, 14 min

As a child Klara had to make the unfathomable decision to leave her father. Decades later, she receives a message from him.

LAST CLASS IN BAGHDAD

Director David Langer
Documentary, 2017, UK, 17 min

The last graduating class of the last Jewish school in Iraq come together for a reunion, decades after fleeing the country.

SENSEI FRAN KICKS ASS

Director Simone Fary
Documentary, USA, 2019, 20 min

Fran Vall travelled the world. Now an octogenarian, she's become a master teacher of Judo and Japanese sword fighting.

THE STARFISH

Director Tyler Gildin
Documentary, USA, 2019, 40 min

When Herb Gildin's wife and kids learn that he was sent to Sweden to escape Nazi persecution, they arrange a reunion with the family who saved him 60 years earlier.

SCREENING TIME:

Sunday, November 10, 1 pm
Bright Family Screening Room

ALSO DON'T MISS...

THE FIDDLE (page 23)
Screening with *Tevye's Daughters*

BEAR WITH ME (page 23)
Screening with *There Are No Lions in Tel Aviv*



#FEMALE PLEASURE

Director Barbara Miller
Documentary, 2018, Germany/
Switzerland, 97 min
English, French, German, and
Japanese with subtitles
New England Premiere

Five extraordinary women from vastly different cultures (an ex-Hasidic Jew from Brooklyn, a Somali-British anti-FGM activist, a Japanese manga artist, a German ex-nun, and an Indian sex educator working to promote love marriages) are all confronting the way culture and religion shape women's relationships to sex and pleasure. Through conversation, education, and art, these women aim to shift the power balance that has disenfranchised them and regain control of their own bodies.

Followed by a conversation.

SCREENING TIMES

Sunday, November 10, 7 pm
Bright Family Screening Room

Sunday, November 17, 2:30 pm
Museum of Fine Arts (Alfond
Auditorium)



ADVOCATE

Director Phillipe Bellaïche and
Rachel Leah Jones
Documentary, 2019, Canada/Israel/
Switzerland, 108 min
Arabic, English, and Hebrew
with subtitles
Boston Premiere

An original, provocative film that challenges audiences to consider their own limits when thinking about justice. For nearly 50 years, Lea Tsemel, a human rights defender, has represented political prisoners—from non-violent demonstrators to armed militants. In the film, two of her cases are masterfully juxtaposed: one purely professional, the defense of a minor accused of attempted murder, and the other personal, the defense of her activist husband against an accusation of treason.

Followed by a conversation.

SCREENING TIME

Monday, November 11, 7 pm
Coolidge Corner Theatre



TLV TV: AUTONOMIES

Director Yehonatan Indursky and Ori Elon
Narrative, 2018, Israel, 209 min
Hebrew and Yiddish with subtitles
Massachusetts Premiere

From the creator of *Shtisel* (BJFF2016), a dystopian thriller set after a brutal civil war that left Israel divided with Tel Aviv as its secular capital and Jerusalem as an Orthodox "Haredi Autonomy." When a custody battle breaks out around the granddaughter of The Rebbe of Kreinitz (Shuli Rand, *Ushpizin*, BJFF2005), peace between the two regions is put in jeopardy. For Broide, a wheeler-dealer in the Autonomy who smuggles contraband between the two regions, a job kidnapping the little girl throws his own life into disarray.

SCREENING TIME

Sunday, November 17, 11:30 am
Brattle Theatre



CAUSE OF DEATH

Director Ramy Katz
Documentary, 2018, Israel, 79 min
Hebrew and Arabic with subtitles
New England Premiere

On the night of March 5, 2002, Druze policeman Salim Barakat responded to a call about a shooter opening fire on civilians at a Tel Aviv restaurant. He died that night, a hero murdered by a terrorist. Soon after, Salim's brother, Jamal, began to hear accounts that conflicted with the official report. *Cause of Death* follows Jamal's investigative journey to uncover the facts surrounding his brother's death, an experience that exposes uncomfortable truths about the position of the Druze minority in Israel.

*Followed by a conversation with
Director Ramy Katz.*

SCREENING TIME

Friday, November 8, 12 pm
Coolidge Corner Theatre

Saturday, November 9, 6:30 pm
Brattle Theatre



THE DAMNED

Director Evgeny Ruman
Narrative, 2019, Israel, 81 min
Hebrew and Arabic with subtitles
USA Premiere

In the newest film by Evgeny Ruman (*The Man in the Wall*, BJFF2015), three Israeli soldiers are sent on a mission to navigate a desert. The routine exercise takes place near an evacuated Bedouin village, rumored to have been cursed. When unexplained events begin to take place around them, the soldiers' journey becomes darker and more disturbing as the expansive desert becomes increasingly claustrophobic.

SCREENING TIME

Thursday, November 14, 9 pm
Coolidge Corner Theatre



DOLCE FINE GIORNATA

Director Jacek Borcuch
Narrative, 2019, Poland, 96 min
Italian, Polish, and French
with subtitles
Boston Premiere

Maria Linde, a Jewish-Polish Nobel Prize winner, lives a bohemian, free-spirited life in her Tuscan villa. A loving mother and grandmother, she also fosters a secret flirtation with a much younger Egyptian man. After a terrorist attack in Rome, Maria refuses to share her neighbors' hysterical fear and anti-immigrant sentiments. Instead, she very publicly decries Europe's eroding democracy, but she is not prepared for the consequences of her attitude and comments.

SCREENING TIME

Thursday, November 7, 7:30 pm
Museum of Fine Arts (Remis Auditorium)

Saturday, November 9, 9:15 pm
Brattle Theatre



FIG TREE

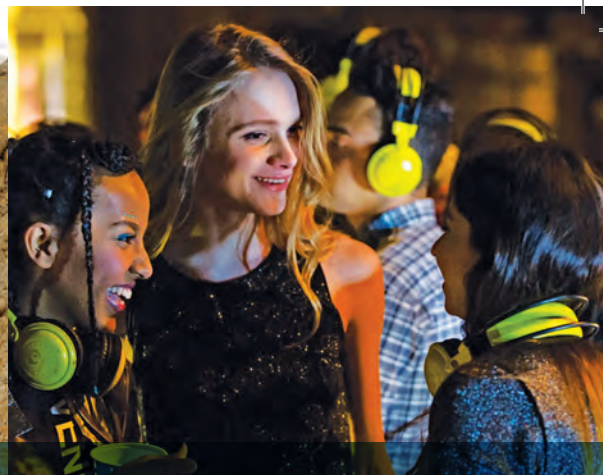
Director Aäläm-Wärque Davidian
Narrative, 2018, Ethiopia/France/
Germany/Israel, 93 min
Amharic with subtitles
Massachusetts Premiere

It's 1989, and the Ethiopian Civil War has been taking place for all of Mina's 16 years. Her family plans to leave Addis Ababa for Israel, but Mina can't fathom leaving behind the person she loves most: Eli, her Christian boyfriend, who lives in the woods to evade being conscripted to the army. Mina hatches a scheme to save him, but everyone and everything seems set against her. Based on the filmmaker's memories of growing up in war-torn Ethiopia, *Fig Tree* is a focused view of the impact of civil war on the lives of ordinary people.

SCREENING TIME

Sunday, November 10, 1 pm
West Newton Cinema

Wednesday, November 13, 7:30 pm
Museum of Fine Arts (Alfond
Auditorium)



FLAWLESS

Directors Tal Granit and Sharon
Maymon
Narrative, 2018, Israel, 97 min
Hebrew with subtitles
Massachusetts Premiere

Eden, a trans high schooler, discovers that her two best—and only—friends are secretly planning to sell their kidneys to pay for cosmetic surgery and dresses for prom. Though dubious at first, Eden decides that joining them may be the answer to her prayers. But when their plans go awry, the girls are confronted by their own prejudices and find themselves on a journey of self-discovery that shapes the self-conscious high-schoolers into adults.

SCREENING TIMES

Saturday, November 9, 6:30 pm
Bright Family Screening Room

Saturday, November 16, 9 pm
Brattle Theatre

Brandeis

HADASSAH-BRANDEIS
INSTITUTE



9TH ANNUAL FRESHFLIX SHORT FILM COMPETITION

THE BRIS OF MICHAEL MOSHE SOLOMON

Director Coral Amiga
Narrative, 2019, UK, 11 min

THE CHEESEBURGER

Director Hillary Nussbaum
Narrative, 2018, USA, 5 min

EDEK

Director Malcolm Green
Documentary, 2018, UK, 6 min

FIVE YEARS AFTER THE WAR

Directors Samuel Albaric, Ulysse Lefort, and Martin Wiklund
Documentary, 2018, France, 17 min

I'M FROM THE JEWS

Director Niv Hachlili
Narrative, 2017, Israel, 17 min

THE MASTER OF YORK

Director Kieron Quirke
Narrative, 2018, UK, 15 min

OFFSPRING

Directors Dana Keidar-Levin and Shirly Sasson-Ezer
Narrative, 2019, Israel, 19 min

TRAVELOGUE TEL AVIV

Director Samuel Patthey
Narrative, 2017, Switzerland, 6 min

SCREENING TIME:

Thursday, November 7, 7 pm
Somerville Armory



FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM

Director Arkady Kogan
Documentary, 2019, Israel, 84 min
Russian with subtitles
New England Premiere

The remarkable life of famous human rights activist, Natan Sharansky. In 1977, Sharansky was charged with spying for America, treason, and anti-Soviet agitation and was sentenced to 13 years of forced labor. No single person symbolizes the era more than he, a "Refusenik" who defied the entire Soviet system in his fight for freedom and national identification. After spending years in prison, he ultimately prevailed, paving the way for all of Soviet Jewry.

Followed by a conversation with writer Rachel Sharansky Danziger, Natan Sharansky's daughter, and writer William Novak. (November 13)

SCREENING TIMES

MIDFEST SCREENING:

Wednesday, November 13, 7 pm
Coolidge Corner Theatre

Thursday, November 14, 1 pm
Coolidge Corner Theatre

Sponsored by Alan Metzer



GOLDA'S BALCONY: THE FILM

Director Scott Schwartz
Narrative, 2019, USA, 86 min
English
Massachusetts Premiere

See Tovah Feldshuh's stunning turn in her award-winning performance as Golda Meir (and forty-five other characters, including Ben-Gurion, Kissinger, King Abdullah, and more) in *Golda's Balcony*. Feldshuh brings the play to life, dramatizing the story of 100 years of Jewish history with heart, dazzle, and artistry. This remarkable one-woman play is now available to see on the big screen (and will likely disappear after 2020).

Followed by a conversation with Actress Tovah Feldshuh and Producer David Fishelson, moderated by Barbara Wallace Grossman.

Winner of the Audience Choice Award: 2019 Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Charlotte, Honolulu, New Hampshire, Palm Beach, New Jersey, Winnipeg, and Dayton Jewish Film Festivals.

SCREENING TIME
Sunday, November 10, 7 pm
Coolidge Corner Theatre



GOOD MORNING SON

Director Sharon Bar-Ziv
Narrative, 2018, Israel, 81 min
Hebrew with subtitles
New England Premiere

After being injured in a military operation, Omri, a young IDF soldier, is clinging to life. His family holds vigil in his hospital room, speaking softly to him, praying, and watching for any sign of improvement, and his friends join to watch soccer, play music, and joke around. Within moments of heartbreak, humor, and hope, Omri's family's dynamic emerges. A beautifully rendered story of resilience which illustrates the ordeal faced by military families in Israel and throughout the world.

SCREENING TIME
Thursday, November 7, 7 pm
Coolidge Corner Theatre

Thursday, November 14, 7 pm
Arlington Capitol Theatre





GOOD THOUGHTS, GOOD WORDS, GOOD DEEDS: THE CONDUCTOR ZUBIN MEHTA

Director Bettina Ehrhardt
Documentary, 2016, Germany,
89 min
English, German, and Italian
with subtitles
Massachusetts Premiere

Though conductor Zubin Mehta was born in India and has had a dazzling international career, it is Israel with which he is most identified. Since he first joined the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in 1969, he has developed strong ties with Israel, becoming the face of its cultural excellence. Produced on the eve of Mehta's 80th birthday, *Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds: The Conductor Zubin Mehta* is a timely celebration of the legendary maestro's life, work, and efforts to bring the transformative power of music to the places and communities that need it most.

Screening followed by a conversation with Director Bettina Ehrhardt, via Skype. (November 16)

SCREENING TIMES

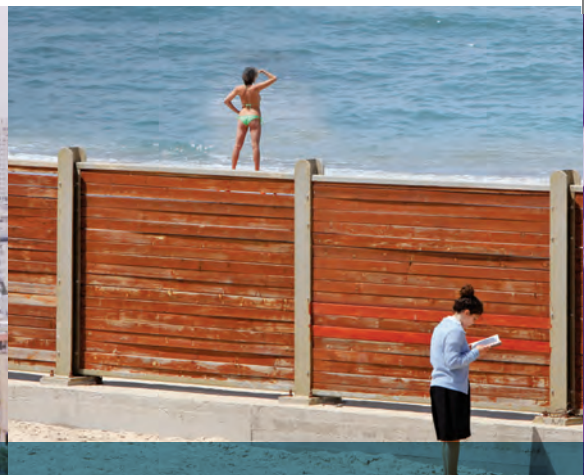
Sunday, November 10, 1 pm
NewBridge on the Charles

Saturday, November 16, 6:30 pm
Museum of Fine Arts
(Remis Auditorium)

NEWBRIDGE
ON THE CHARLES

 Hebrew SeniorLife

Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Campus



KOSHER BEACH

Director Karin Kainer
Documentary, 2019, Israel/USA,
62 min
English, Hebrew, and Yiddish
with subtitles
New England Premiere

It's only a half-hour drive from ultra-Orthodox Bnei Brak to Tel Aviv, but for the women traveling to Tel Aviv's "Kosher Beach," it's light-years away. This gated and secluded strip has dedicated days for segregated swimming for women and men. For the Orthodox women who frequent it, it's a safe haven from social and family problems—a place where they can just be themselves. So when local rabbis try to shut down the beach, the women are forced to choose: give in to their religious authority or fight for the space they hold sacred.

Screening With: MRS. G

Director Dalit Kimor
Documentary, 2019, Israel, 55 min

SCREENING TIME

Saturday, November 16, 6:30 pm
Brattle Theatre

Jewish
Women's
Archive 



LATTER DAY JEW

Director Aliza Rosen
Documentary, 2019, Israel/USA,
85 min
English
New England Premiere

How does a gay, former-Mormon, cancer-survivor who converted to Judaism at the age of 31 prepare for his bar mitzvah? *Latter Day Jew* follows Comedian H. Alan Scott, known for his appearances on *Ellen* and *The Jimmy Kimmel Show*, as he talks with friends and Jewish comedians (including Judy Gold), takes a trip to Israel, and, finally, deals with the big questions: How did his cancer scare affect his path to Judaism and how will becoming a Jew affect his relationship with his Mormon family in Missouri?

Followed by a conversation with Comedian/Protagonist H. Alan Scott and Producer Kelly Woyan. (November 12)

SCREENING TIME

Tuesday, November 12, 7 pm
Somerville Theatre

Wednesday, November 13, 1 pm
Coolidge Corner Theatre



Center Communities
of Brookline
Hebrew SeniorLife



THE LOST CROWN

Director Avi Dabach
Documentary, 2019, Israel, 65 min
English and Hebrew with subtitles
Massachusetts Premiere

The Aleppo Codex, the oldest known manuscript of the Bible, was the crown of Syria's Jewish community for seven centuries. But after riots set fire to the synagogue where it lived, the city's Jews decided to smuggle the Codex to safety in Israel. En route, a third of the book's pages mysteriously disappeared. Were they simply lost in the fire or is there a more sordid history? Filmmaker Avi Dabach meets the people obsessed with this affair—from a best-selling author to an elderly Mossad agent, to find out and uncover a web involving antique dealers, wealthy collectors, and corrupt officials.

Followed by a conversation with Producer Judith Manasson Ramon and Dr. Yael Berda.

SCREENING TIME

Sunday, November 10, 4 pm
West Newton Cinema



THE MOVER

Director Dāvis Simanis
Narrative, 2018, Latvia/
Luxembourg, 87 min
German, Latvian, Russian,
and Yiddish with subtitles
Massachusetts Premiere

The true story of Žani Lipke, a Latvian blue-collar worker, and his wife Johanna, who ran a covert operation to save local Jews from Nazi persecution and certain death. At the risk of endangering their own family, the Lipkes transported Jews from the Riga ghetto to an underground bunker hidden on their property. This award-winning film shines a light on Lipke's remarkable heroism and demonstrates the human capacity for bravery in the face of evil.

Latvia's entry for the 2019 Foreign Language Oscar.

Screening as part of the Cummings Social Justice Film Series.

SCREENING TIME
Saturday, November 9, 9 pm
JCC Reimer-Goldstein Theater

Sunday, November 17, 3 pm
West Newton Cinema

Joseph Gann
Jewelers LLC
SINCE 1933



LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS GODA KONSULĀTS



MRS. G

Director Dalit Kimor
Documentary, 2019, Israel, 55 min
English, Hebrew, and Hungarian
with subtitles
Massachusetts Premiere

The incredible story of how one woman created the world's most famous swimsuit company. Mrs. Lea Gottlieb, known as "Mrs. G," started Gottex in her tiny Tel Aviv apartment. A Holocaust survivor with endless creativity, unbridled passion, and a dominant personality, Mrs. G was able to climb to the pinnacle of the glamorous fashion world. But ultimately, this success meant navigating complex relationships with her two daughters and making complicated personal decisions while trying to keep her business afloat.

Followed by a conversation with fashion historian Keren Ben-Horin.

Screening With: KOSHER BEACH
Director Karin Kainer
Documentary, 2019, Israel/USA,
62 min

SCREENING TIME
Saturday, November 16, 6:30 pm
Brattle Theatre

Jewish
Women's
Archive



MS. STERN

Director Anatol Schuster
Narrative, 2019, Germany, 79 min
English, German, and Hebrew with subtitles

Massachusetts Premiere

Ms. Stern, a 90-year old Holocaust survivor, has a rich life in Berlin. She spends time with her daughter. She goes out with her granddaughter and her eclectic group of friends. But rather than become a burden to those she loves, Ms. Stern wants to end her own life—and she is determined to find a gun with which to do it. But while Ms. Stern may be done with life, life appears to feel otherwise, and Ms. Stern's quest for a weapon brings her surprising encounters with strangers.

SCREENING TIMES

Sunday, November 10, 3 pm
Coolidge Corner Theatre

Thursday, November 14, 7 pm
Somerville Theatre



TLV TV: MUNA

Director Mira Awad
Narrative, 2019, Israel, 95 min
Hebrew and Arabic with subtitles
New England Premiere

SEASON 1 (EPISODES 1-3)

It's summer 2014. Muna (Mouna Hawa, *In Between*, BJFF2017), an Israeli-Arab photographer living in Tel Aviv, has just been chosen to represent Israel in a prestigious international photography exhibition in Paris. Her father and his neighbors in their Arab village are against Muna's participation, as are the Jewish critics who don't want an Arab-Israeli representing them, especially in wartime. Muna, caught between two worlds is determined to forge her own path, even if it means upsetting her relationship with her Jewish boyfriend. Produced by musician Mira Awad (*Arab Labor*, BJFF2008) and inspired by her own story.

*Followed by a conversation with
Producer Mira Awad.*

SCREENING TIME

Sunday, November 17, 4 pm
Brattle Theatre



MY POLISH HONEYMOON

Director Élise Otzenberger
Narrative, 2019, France, 88 min
French with subtitles
Massachusetts Premiere

Anna and Adam, a young Jewish Parisian couple, decide to finally take their honeymoon—in Poland, where they'll attend a ceremony for the Jews of the village where Adam's grandfather was born. While he's wary about the trip, she's looking forward to the opportunity to connect with her roots, visit the place her grandmother is from, and, hopefully uncover more about her family's mysterious history. But confronted with their families' pasts, their romantic holiday begins to unravel and their differences come to the surface.

*Followed by a conversation
with Director Élise Otzenberger.
(November 7 and November 9)*

SCREENING TIMES

Thursday, November 7, 7 pm
Brattle Theatre

Saturday, November 9, 6:30 pm
Museum of Fine Arts
(Remis Auditorium)

Tuesday, November 12, 7 pm
Coolidge Corner Theatre



PARIS SONG

Director Jeff Vespa
Narrative, 2018, Kazakhstan/Latvia/
USA, 90 min
English
Massachusetts Premiere

A surprising musician is representing the Soviet Union in 1925's Paris Expo: Amre Kashaubayev, a traditional singer from rural Kazakhstan. Amre manages to steal the show every time he performs, but remains an outsider in high-culture Paris. He forms a quick friendship with two American Jews who empathize with his experience as an underdog—George Gershwin and Irving Berlin, and he begins a flirtation with the beautiful photographer, Lee Abbott. This inspiring true story of a Kazakhstani folk hero illuminates how Amre's talent and determination overcame the adversity within a repressive regime.

SCREENING TIMES

Saturday, November 9, 6:30 pm
JCC Reimer-Goldstein Theater

Monday, November 11, 7 pm
Arlington Capitol Theatre



PICTURE OF HIS LIFE

Directors Dani Menkin and
Yonatan Nir
Documentary, 2019, Israel/Canada/
USA, 71 min
English, Hebrew, and Inuktitut
with subtitles

Massachusetts Premiere

To photograph some of the most fearsome creatures on Earth, Amos Nachoum has gone face to face with anacondas, giant leopard seals, great white sharks, orcas, and crocodiles. But at age 65, Nachoum, one of the greatest underwater photographers of all time, is about to face his ultimate challenge: photographing a polar bear, up close, without any protection. As he prepares for his biggest mission in the Canadian Arctic, Nachoum faces past traumas in an intimate story of dedication, sacrifice, and personal redemption.

*Followed by a conversation with
Director Dani Menkin. (November 16)*

Co-Presented with ReelAbilities Boston

SCREENING TIMES

SPOTLIGHT SCREENING:

Saturday, November 16, 7:30 pm
New England Aquarium

Sunday, November 17, 11:30 am
Museum of Fine Arts (Alfond
Auditorium)



THE RABBI GOES WEST

Directors Amy Geller and
Gerald Peary
Documentary, 2019, USA, 78 min
English

Massachusetts Premiere

When Rabbi Chaim Bruk moved from Brooklyn to Bozeman, Montana, he left a large Chabad Hasidic community. In all of Montana there are just 2,000 Jewish families—and Rabbi Chaim is determined to put a mezuzah on each of their doorposts. While Rabbi Chaim builds his community, becoming beloved by his congregants, some of the state's Jews believe his outreach activities pose a risk to their denominations of Judaism. At the same time, the threat of anti-Semitism, including possible attacks from neo-Nazis, looms.

*Followed by a conversation with
Protagonist Rabbi Chaim Bruk
and Directors Amy Geller and
Gerald Peary.*

SCREENING TIME

CLOSING NIGHT:

Sunday, November 17, 7 pm
Somerville Theatre



SAFE SPACES

Director Daniel Schechter
Narrative, 2019, USA, 93 min
English
Boston Premiere

Josh (Justin Long, *Dodgeball*) has a lot going on. His job as an adjunct writing professor is being threatened after a student accused him of being inappropriate in class. And his beloved grandmother (Lynn Cohen) is in the hospital, meaning his divorced parents (Fran Drescher, *The Nanny*, and Richard Schiff, *The West Wing*) and siblings (including Kate Berlant, *Sorry to Bother You*) need to all come together. This candid and often-humorous take on how we deal with modern crises, both unexpected and self-inflicted, is a testament to the importance of family—no matter how dysfunctional.

Followed by a conversation with Actor Justin Long and Director Daniel Schechter. (November 6)

SCREENING TIMES

OPENING NIGHT:

Wednesday, November 6, 7 pm
Coolidge Corner Theatre

Thursday, November 7, 9:15 pm
Brattle Theatre

Sunday, November 10, 4:15 pm
JCC Reimer-Goldstein Theater



SHORT FILM PROGRAM: BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

Join us for a series of international short films about the surprises and triumphs that can happen at any point in life's journey. (110 min)

For complete descriptions visit
bostonjfilm.org

BUTTERFLIES

Director Yona Rozenkier
Narrative, 2019, Israel/France

GEFILTE

Director Rachel Fleit
Documentary, 2018, USA

I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU

Director Matan Rochlitz
Documentary, 2018, Israel/Italy/UK

LAST CLASS IN BAGHDAD

Director David Langer
Documentary, 2017, UK

SENSEI FRAN KICKS ASS

Director Simone Fary
Documentary, 2019, USA

THE STARFISH

Director Tyler Gildin
Documentary, 2019, USA

SCREENING TIME

Sunday, November 10, 1 pm
Bright Family Screening Room



THE SONG OF NAMES

Director Francois Girard
 Narrative, 2019, USA/UK, 113 min
 English
Massachusetts Premiere

When Martin's family takes in Dovidl, a Polish-Jewish refugee and musical prodigy, the boys become fast friends. But at age 21, right before his first major violin performance, Dovidl disappears. It is not until decades later that Martin (Tim Roth) sets out to find Dovidl (Clive Owens) and begins a transcontinental search that will take him down a path of long-forgotten memories that lead to surprising revelations. Driven by beautiful music, this is a story about family, obligation, ambition, and friendship, as well as the inescapable trauma of being forced to leave home.

SCREENING TIME
 Tuesday, November 12, 7 pm
 West Newton Cinema



STANDING UP, FALLING DOWN

Director Matt Ratner
 Narrative, 2019, USA, 91 min
 English
Massachusetts Premiere

Life is not going according to plan for Scott (Ben Schwartz, *Parks and Recreation*). He's struck out as a stand-up comedian in LA and is living in his childhood bedroom in Long Island. Filled with self-doubt and the dread of needing to get a soul-crushing "real" job, he finds an unexpected connection with Marty (Billy Crystal), a local dermatologist and charming bar-fly. As their unlikely friendship deepens, Scott discovers that despite a larger-than-life personality, Marty has his own disappointments. A funny and emotionally resonant story about finding the strength to start anew.

SCREENING TIME
 Saturday, November 9, 9:30 pm
 Bright Family Screening Room

Saturday, November 16, 8:45 pm
 Museum of Fine Arts (Remis Auditorium)



THE STATE AGAINST MANDELA AND THE OTHERS

Director Nicolas Champeaux and Gilles Porte
Documentary, 2018, France, 106 min
English
New England Premiere

In 1963, Nelson Mandela and nine other confederates were tried on charges of trying to overthrow South Africa's government. Several of them, as well as members of Mandela's legal team, were part of South Africa's close-knit Jewish community. While there were no cameras present in court, there are 256 hours of sound recordings of the proceedings. Along with animation, interviews, and newsreel footage, these recordings bring the courtroom to life and illuminate the story of Mandela's lesser-known co-defendants, the heroes who dedicated their lives to the cause of freedom, and risked everything in pursuit of liberty for all.

Screening as part of the Cummings Social Justice Film Series.

Followed by a conversation.

SCREENING TIME

Sunday, November 10, 4 pm
Bright Family Screening Room



SUSTAINABLE NATION

Director Micah Smith
Documentary, 2019, Israel, 60 min
English and Hebrew with subtitles
Boston Premiere

Sustainable Nation highlights three remarkable Israelis doing their part to bring clean water to an increasingly thirsty planet. Using innovative solutions developed in water-poor Israel, they create wells across Africa, transform polluted water in India, and hydrate drought-plagued fields in California. In a world where one in ten people lack access to safe drinking water, and where energy and food are water dependent, the work of these three visionaries create rivers of hope. *Sustainable Nation* highlights how fixing global water issues is not only a matter of life and death, it's a step towards healing the world.

Screening as part of the Cummings Social Justice Film Series.

SCREENING TIME

Sunday, November 10, 7 pm
JCC Reimer-Goldstein Theatre



TEVYE'S DAUGHTERS

Director Vladimir Lert

Narrative, 2017, Ukraine, 120 min
Russian with subtitles

Massachusetts Premiere

In the Jewish shtetl of Anatotva, Tevye the milkman is struggling to make ends meet. But there is hope for his five beautiful daughters—if he can find them successful matches! His daughters, on the other hand, are not interested in a matchmaker's help, as they have other plans for marriage. And while Tevye tries to take care of his home life, the Czarist government's anti-Semitic campaign threatens everything around him. This funny and buoyant retelling of the Sholem Aleichem story which inspired *Fiddler on the Roof* was filmed on the same locations which inspired the original tale.

Screening With: THE FIDDLE

Director Asher Schwartz

Narrative, 2018, Israel, 8 min

This animated film tells the story of the boy who was destined to become the Fiddler on the Roof.

SCREENING TIMES:

Sunday, November 10, 1 pm
JCC Reimer-Goldstein Theater

Monday, November 11, 7 & 7:15 pm
Foxboro Patriot Place



THERE ARE NO LIONS IN TEL AVIV

Director Duki Dror

Documentary, 2019, Israel, 63 min
Hebrew with subtitles

New England Premiere

When the chief Rabbi of Copenhagen moved to Israel in 1935, he began collecting exotic animals in his Tel Aviv home. Rabbi Doolittle, as he came to be known, was going to build a zoo and teach the children of Palestine to love animals. The Tel Aviv Zoo became one of the city's greatest attractions, but as the zoo grew, bureaucracy moved in and this idealistic paradise took another form. With remarkable archival photos and footage of early Israel and charming animation, this is the story of a dreamer, and a dream that grew so big it no longer belonged to him.

Screening With: BEAR WITH ME

Director Daphna Awadish

Documentary, 2018, Israel, 4 min

An animated film about immigrants who cross borders to be with the ones they love.

SCREENING TIME:

Sunday, November 17, 12:30 pm
West Newton Cinema



THOSE WHO REMAINED

Director Barnabas Tóth
Narrative, 2019, Hungary, 83 min
Hungarian with subtitles
Massachusetts Premiere

In post-World War II Hungary, 16-year old Klara is holding onto hope that her parents will return to her. When she meets Aldo, a survivor living a solitary life, they provide each other with some of the warmth and compassion that disappeared with the war. But as the Soviet Empire rises to power in Hungary, their pure and loving father-daughter relationship is misunderstood and frowned upon. A lyrical story of loss, trauma, and the healing power of love, through the eyes of a young girl.

Hungary's submission to the 2019 Academy Awards.

Followed by a conversation with Filmmaker Barnabas Tóth. (November 9)

SCREENING TIME

Saturday, November 9, 8:45 pm
Museum of Fine Arts
(Remis Auditorium)

Sunday, November 10, 6:30 pm
West Newton Cinema



WITNESS THEATER

Director Oren Rudavsky
Documentary, 2018, USA, 74 min
English
Massachusetts Premiere

Over the course of a year, sixteen Brooklyn high school students and eight Holocaust survivors meet to use drama therapy to prepare, and eventually perform, a theater piece based on the survivors' stories. As the students and survivors get to know each other, they become friends, connecting through their stories, jokes, and tears. And the students come to understand not only what happened, but the important role they will play by hearing these firsthand accounts, especially as the number of direct witnesses dwindles.

Screening as part of the Cummings Social Justice Film Series.

Followed by a conversation with Director Oren Rudavsky. (November 14)

SCREENING TIME

Monday, November 11, 1 pm
Coolidge Corner Theatre

Thursday, November 14, 7 pm
West Newton Cinema

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The Cummings Social Justice Film Series

Thanks to a \$100k for 100 Grant from the Cummings Foundation, we are able to present films about anti-Semitism and social justice with the hope of eliminating prejudice and preventing future genocide.

Audience Awards

After each screening, tear your paper ballot and submit your vote. The winning films will be announced on our website and social media after Thanksgiving.

TICKETS

\$18 General Admission

\$16 Senior/Member*

\$14 30 and Under

**Discounted tickets available for seniors (65+), members of BJF, Coolidge Corner Theatre, Museum of Fine Arts, and WGBH.*

\$7 Matinees:

November 8 at noon, 13 & 14 at 1:00 pm at Coolidge Corner Theatre.

EBT Card holders are eligible for 2 free matinee tickets as part of the Mass. Cultural Council EBT Card to Culture program.

Group Sales (10 ticket minimum):

\$12 per ticket plus \$4 per order mailing fee. Not available for Special Events: Opening, MidFest, Spotlight Screening, and Closing Night. Order group tickets online at bostonjfilm.org, by email at info@bostonjfilm.org, or by phone at 617.244.9899.

Special Events:

Opening Night November 6, 7:00 pm, Coolidge Corner Theatre **\$36/\$32*/\$26**

MidFest November 13, 7:00 pm, Coolidge Corner Theatre **\$36/\$32*/\$26**

Spotlight Screening November 16, 7:00 pm, New England Aquarium **\$36/\$32*/\$26**

Closing Night November 17, 7:00 pm, Somerville Theatre **\$36/\$32*/\$26**

PURCHASING TICKETS

Tickets are NOT available at the Boston Jewish Film Office. Please order tickets as follows:

Purchase Tickets at bostonjfilm.org:

There is a \$3.50 security and processing fee per ticket. Online purchases close at midnight before a screening.

Boston Jewish Film will only reserve seats for groups or individuals who require special accommodations.

At Cinema Box Offices:

Advance tickets are available at Coolidge Corner Theatre, Emerson Paramount, West Newton Cinema, and the MFA. Tickets for screenings at other theatres are available one hour before screening. Each venue sells tickets for its location only. Processing fees may apply.

For MFA Screenings:

All MFA tickets ordered on the Boston Jewish Film website are on a will-call only basis. MFA regulations require Boston Jewish Film to close ticket sales through our website 48 hours in advance of each screening. Plenty of tickets may still be available at mfa.org or at the MFA box office. Processing fees may apply. Tickets can be picked up in person at any MFA ticket desk on the day of the screening. Tickets cannot be exchanged or refunded. Please note that a Film or Museum Admission ticket is required in order to enter the Museum. Tickets cannot be held inside the Museum at the box office. Theater doors will open 15 minutes before the start of a screening.

On Saturdays, November 9 & November 16, doors open for the MFA screenings 1 hour before showtime at the MFA Linde Entrance.

Rush Line:

If advanced tickets are sold out that doesn't mean the film is sold out. Rush tickets may become available after passholders and advance ticket holders are admitted into the theater. 15 minutes before the show, we release a number of tickets to the Rush Line. While we can't make any guarantees, people in the rush line have a very high probability of getting tickets. The Rush Line forms no earlier than one hour before screening time. 4 tickets per person maximum.

Passes:

Buy your pass by October 25 to be sure you don't miss a minute of the Festival. Order your pass online or call 617.244.9899. Pass admission is guaranteed if the holder arrives at least 20 minutes before the screening.** Present your pass at the BJF pass table (or for MFA screenings, at the MFA Admissions Desk). A Friends Pass may only be used by passholder and is non-transferable.

Friends Pass:

Admission to every film and event for \$360.

REELPass:

Get one admission to 3 screenings for \$48. Opening, MidFest, Spotlight Screening, and Closing Night excluded.

***Seating is guaranteed for Friends Pass holders until 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of an event. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of Boston Jewish Film staff.*

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

7:00 pm **Opening Night** Safe Spaces Coolidge Corner Theatre

Thursday, November 7, 2019

7:00 pm FreshFlix Short Film CompetitionThe Center for Arts
at the Armory, Somerville

7:00 pm Good Morning Son.....Coolidge Corner Theatre

7:00 pm My Polish HoneymoonBrattle Theatre

7:30 pm Dolce Fine GiornataMuseum of Fine Arts (Remis Auditorium)

9:15 pm Safe Spaces Brattle Theatre

Friday, November 8, 2019

12:00 pm Cause of Death.....Coolidge Corner Theatre

Saturday, November 9, 2019

6:30 pm Cause of Death.....Brattle Theatre

6:30 pm Flawless.....Emerson Paramount
(Bright Family Screening Room)

6:30 pm My Polish Honeymoon Museum of Fine Arts
(Remis Auditorium)

6:30 pm Paris Song.....JCC Riemer-Goldstein Theater

8:45 pm Those Who RemainedMuseum of Fine Arts (Remis Auditorium)

9:00 pm The Mover.....JCC Riemer-Goldstein Theater

9:15 pm Dolce Fine Giornata Brattle Theatre

9:30 pm Standing Up, Falling DownEmerson Paramount
(Bright Family Screening Room)

Sunday, November 10, 2019

1:00 pm Short Film Program: Beyond Expectations.....Emerson Paramount
(Bright Family Screening Room)

1:00 pm Fig Tree.....West Newton Cinema

1:00 pm Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds..... NewBridge
on the Charles

1:00 pm Tevye's Daughters & The Fiddle.....JCC Riemer-Goldstein Theater

3:00 pm Ms. Stern Coolidge Corner Theatre

4:00 pm The Lost Crown.....West Newton Cinema

4:00 pm The State Against Mandela and the Others....Emerson Paramount
(Bright Family Screening Room)

4:15 pm Safe Spaces JCC Riemer-Goldstein Theater

6:30 pm Those Who Remained.....West Newton Cinema

7:00 pm #Female Pleasure Emerson Paramount
(Bright Family Screening Room)

7:00 pm Golda's Balcony: The Film.....Coolidge Corner Theatre

7:00 pm Sustainable Nation.....JCC Riemer-Goldstein Theater

Monday, November 11, 2019

1:00 pm	Witness Theater	Coolidge Corner Theatre
7:00 pm	Advocate	Coolidge Corner Theatre
7:00 pm	Paris Song	Arlington Capitol Theatre
7:00 pm	Tevye's Daughters	Foxboro Patriot Place
7:15 pm	Tevye's Daughters	Foxboro Patriot Place

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

7:00 pm	Latter Day Jew	Somerville Theatre
7:00 pm	My Polish Honeymoon	Coolidge Corner Theatre
7:00 pm	The Song of Names	West Newton Cinema

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

1:00 pm	Latter Day Jew	Coolidge Corner Theatre
7:00 pm	Midfest From Slavery to Freedom.....	Coolidge Corner Theatre
7:30 pm	Fig Tree	Museum of Fine Arts (Alfond Auditorium)

Thursday, November 14, 2019

1:00 pm	From Slavery to Freedom.....	Coolidge Corner Theatre
7:00 pm	Good Morning Son.....	Arlington Capitol Theatre
7:00 pm	Ms. Stern.....	Somerville Theatre
7:00 pm	Witness Theater.....	West Newton Cinema
9:00 pm	The Damned	Coolidge Corner Theatre

Saturday, November 16, 2019

6:30 pm	Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds	Museum of Fine Arts (Remis Auditorium)
6:30 pm	Double Feature Mrs. G & Kosher Beach.....	Brattle Theatre
7:30 pm	Spotlight Screening Picture of His Life	New England Aquarium
8:45 pm	Standing Up, Falling Down	Museum of Fine Arts (Remis Auditorium)
9:00 pm	Flawless.....	Brattle Theatre

Sunday, November 17, 2019

11:30 am	Picture of His Life	Museum of Fine Arts (Alfond Auditorium)
11:30 am	TLV TV Autonomies.....	Brattle Theatre
12:30 pm	There Are No Lions in Tel Aviv	West Newton Cinema
2:30 pm	#Female Pleasure	Museum of Fine Arts (Alfond Auditorium)
3:00 pm	The Mover	West Newton Cinema
4:00 pm	TLV TV Muna	Brattle Theatre
7:00 pm	Closing Night The Rabbi Goes West.....	Somerville Theatre

For full guest list and bios visit bostonjfilm.org/guests

VENUES

Arlington Capitol Theatre

204 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington
781.648.4340
www.capitoltheatreusa.com



Brattle Theatre

40 Brattle Street, Cambridge
617.876.6837
www.brattlefilm.org



Coolidge Corner Theatre

290 Harvard Street, Brookline
617.734.2500
www.coolidge.org



Emerson Paramount

Bright Family Screening Room
559 Washington Street, Boston
617.824.8000
www.coolidge.org



JCC Greater Boston

Riemer-Goldstein Theater
333 Nahanton Street, Newton
617.558.6522
www.bostonjcc.org



Foxboro Patriot Place

24 Patriot Place, Foxboro
508.543.1450
www.patriot-place.com/cinemadelux



Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

465 Huntington Avenue, Boston
617.267.9300
www.mfa.org



NewBridge on the Charles

5000 Great Meadow Road, Dedham
781.859.3090
www.hebrewseniorlife.org/newbridge



New England Aquarium

1 Central Wharf, Boston
617.973.5298
www.neaq.org



The Center for Arts at the Armory

191 Highland Ave #1c, Somerville
617.718.2191
www.artsatthearmory.org



Somerville Theatre

55 Davis Square, Somerville
617.625.5700
www.somervilletheatre.com



West Newton Cinema

1296 Washington Street
Route 16, West Newton
617.964.6060
www.westnewtoncinema.com



SPECIAL NOTE

The majority of films are unrated, some may contain graphic content not suitable for ages 17 and under. Parental discretion is advised. Please contact the Boston Jewish Film office for more details on specific films at 617.244.9899.

ACCESSIBILITY

Boston Jewish Film is committed to accommodating audience members with disabilities, offering seating as needed and wherever possible. Upon arrival at the venue, please check in with a BJF staff member for assistance. All venues are wheelchair accessible. All films in languages other than English are subtitled in English. Individuals requiring further accommodations should contact us at 617.244.9899 or info@bostonjfilm.org.



SAVE THE DATES

BOSTON JEWISH FILM 360 PROGRAMS

Boston Jewish Film is your home for great Jewish films throughout the year. Join us for events, screenings, and more Festivals.

2nd Annual Boston Israeli Film Festival February 6-13, 2020

Join us for the best new films from Israel, followed by conversations with filmmakers.

A Field Guide to SNL Writers: An Evening with Dave Barry, Adam Mansbach, and Alan Zweibel Monday, May 18, 2020

Co-presented with The Vilna Shul

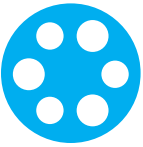
BJF Summer Cinematheque Wednesdays, July–August, 2020

ReelAbilities BOSTON FILM FESTIVAL

ReelAbilities Film Festival Boston: March 2020

Boston Jewish Film is proud to host the 9th annual ReelAbilities Film Festival in 2020. ReelAbilities strives for inclusion of all people and is dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories, and artistic expressions of people with disabilities.

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