

香港猶太電影節 HK|JE₩ISH OO NN|FILM GG|FESTIVAL 4-12 NOVEMBER 2017





Generously supported by

The Ohel Leah Synagogue Trust

Celebrate!

Dear film lovers,

We are particularly excited about the 2017 Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival as we are celebrating our 18th year - what a wonderful milestone to reach!

A special thank you to Howard Elias, founder of the HKJFF, for your vision and tenacity in setting up this important cultural event so many years ago. May the Festival only go from strength to strength!

18 in the Hebrew alphabet equates to 'Life', so we thought it only appropriate to choose the theme 'Celebrate'. We are celebrating the life and history of this Festival, and the great achievements in Jewish film across the globe, and raising our glasses to the future - L'Chaim!

Our 2017 lineup of films is sure to appeal to audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Whether you are looking to be educated, entertained, intrigued or challenged, we are confident you will find films that suit your taste in our program.

We are thankful to all our viewers and donors for your long term support, and to our Board and Viewing Committee, without whom the Festival simply could not take place.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the movies, and I sincerely hope you will find this year the best one yet!

Let's celebrate :)

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הקונסוליה הכללית של ישראל הונג קונג

November 2017

Consulate General of Israel Hong Kong

Dear friends,

I am delighted to represent my country in Hong Kong and Macau and to support the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival, a flagship cultural event that is celebrating it's 18th (chai) edition this year. As in Judaism, 18 is a number that symbolizes life and good luck, I wish the HKJFF many happy returns.

The opening night film *On the Map* documents the story of Israel's Maccabi Tel-Aviv basketball team making history by winning the first European Basketball Championship in 1977, amid the Cold War. The moment Mr Tal Brody, the winning team's legendary player, said "We are on the map!" is a collective memory of our generations. Mr Brody, who immigrated to Israel from the USA, also represents the successful story of the Jewish absorption in Israel. I will be thrilled to meet him in person at the opening night.

There are many more Israeli and Jewish-themed titles from other countries that should not be missed.

Sadly, we are bidding farewell to the HKJFF Chair Mrs Debby Amias, who is leaving Hong Kong very soon. My gratitude to her dedication in the promotion of Jewish and Israeli films and her long co-operation with the Consulate.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helps make this festival happen.

Ahuva Spieler Consul General of Israel

Telephone: (852) 2821 7500 Fax: (852) 2865 0220 E-mail: info@hongkong.mfa.gov.il Website: http://embassies.gov.il/hong-kong 701 Admiralty Centre Tower II G.P.O. Box 245 Hong Kong Congratulations to the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival on its 18th Anniversary from Jewish Times Asia

Jewish Times Asia

Asia's first community newspaper for the region

www.jewishtimesasia.org

Celebrating 11 years of Jewish news in Asia



Message from the Israeli Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong

Congratulations on the 18th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival!

We are dedicated to promoting trade and development between Hong Kong SAR and Israel for our mutual benefit.

Our loyalties lie first and foremost with our members, acting as their voice in advising the Israeli Government in matters affecting businesses and the economy, providing members with business information and opportunities, and facilitating networking through a variety of Chamber activities.

The Jewish Community and the Chamber members have enjoyed the spectacular movies we have seen the past 17 years. Thanks to Debby Amias and her team.

Movies are wonderful entertainment. You can express happiness, love, sorrow and harmony. I see this event as a significant culture exchange between the Jewish nation and the Chinese society in Hong Kong as well as the rest of the community.

We couldn't have come this far without you.

Best wishes

Jaeld -

Rafael Aharoni Chairman

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Festival would never happen were it not for the tremendous assistance from these people... Thank you!

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rid Eli Bitan Aviva Shabat

bat Dina Wosner

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A very big thanks to:

Nicole Izsak and Sharon Cooper

And special thanks to:

Yael Bronner, Stanley Kong & Winsome Tam at the Asia Society and Neil Morgan & Daniel Tse at the JCC HKJFF Society Limited is a registered charitable organisation licensed under the laws of Hong Kong.

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We hope to see your name here! Find out more on the Donate page of our website <u>www.hkjff.org</u>

Without the support of the following people and organisations, the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival would be just a dream. Please support them just as they have supported us.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

OSCAR WINNER: (HK\$100,000+)

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Rafi Aharoni Meital & Benny Braunshtein Aliza & Ilan Horowitz Corinna & Doron Nagar Aviva & Yossi Shabat Iris & Ronen Zion Consulate General of Israel in Hong Kong Maccabi basketball families: Anonymous Merav & Ronen Cojocaru Deborah & Michel Lowy Tanya & David Rabinowitz Louise Soloway & Rey Chan Isabelle Tal Demenge & Yuval Tal

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Tara & Joe Diestel Hayley & Peter Goldberg Pauline & Antoine Klemberg Isabelle & Jonathan Lieberman Rachel & Asher Oser Anneke & Rae Patria Marc Wathen Martha & Stan Zamek

*This list is correct as we go to press, apologies if your name isn't here - it will be on the website.



Maccabi Hong Kong wishes the festival every success!

We are delighted to be involved with the opening night film and proud of all our athletes that participated in the Maccabiah 2017

> Should your children wish to play Soccer or Basketball – please contact: maccabihk@gmail.com

On The Map



On The Map tells the against-all-odds story of Maccabi Tel Aviv's 1977 European Championship, which took place at a time when the Middle East was still reeling from the 1973 Yom Kippur War and the 1972 Olympic massacre at Munich. This fast-moving film recounts how an underdog Israeli basketball team prevailed over a series of European basketball powers, including the four-time defending champions. Moments after this highly charged win, Israel-American team captain Tal Brody became an indelible part of the country's history when he famously said, "Israel is ON THE MAP, not just in sport, but in everything.

Told through the eyes of six American basketball players who joined Maccabi and helped the club to become Israel's `Team of the Nation', the film features a range of interviews with NBA officials, basketball icons, and the athletes who made history. **On the Map** combines the pulse pounding action of a high-stakes thriller with an incendiary political backdrop to deliver a film that captures the spirit of a nation triumphant against all odds.

We are honoured to welcome Tal Brody to Hong Kong, a Q&A will follow after the screening.

Please join us for the Opening Night After-Party on the Asia Society Hong Kong Center's fabulous roof top for burgers, beer & basketball. USA, 2016 Hebrew, English with English subtitles | 85 mins Documentary Director: Dani Menkin



OPENING NIGHT FILM

Awards

Boston Jewish Film Festival 2016 Winner of the Audience Award for Best Documentary

Donald M. Ephraim Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival 2017 Winner of the Audience Award for Best Documentary

Donald M. Ephraim Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival 2017 Winner of the Audience Choice Award

Kindly sponsored by the

Tal Brody: HK Visit Sponsors

Presented in cooperation with the American Consulate General



I am so proud to sponsor this important film. Congratulations on The Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival's 18th Year

Robert L. Meyer

Hate Spaces



On American campuses today, many Jewish students who grew up with expectations of equality and inclusion are saddened to discover a harsh and ugly reality, one which is mostly ignored by college officials. *Hate Spaces* illustrates how anti-Semitism is being made fashionable at many American universities through the ongoing de-legitimization of Israel, and the normalization of hatred in the name of social justice.

Including commentary and analysis from distinguished writers, academics and journalists, this enlightening documentary considers how hostility toward Jewish students is part of a larger change within academia, which has embraced ideological indoctrination and bigotry under the banner of free speech and human rights. The film also extends beyond the college arena to address larger issues about prejudice and intolerance in the US today. USA, 2016 English | 70 mins Documentary Director: Avi Goldwasser

> SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5 1:00 PM

"Hate Spaces is a wake up call to the Jewish community and to civil society in America about the institutionalization of bigotry on college campuses." Alan Dershowitz, Felix Frankfurter Professor Emeritus of Law, Harvard Law School

"Hate Spaces is a film every American needs to see. It is alarming to see the tolerance of anti-Semitism in higher education." Ruth Wisse, Martin Peretz Professor Emerita of Yiddish Literature, Harvard University

Kindly sponsored by

Robert L. Meyer

Presented in cooperation with the American Consulate General



The HKHTC is delighted to support the 18th Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival, and will be screening selected Holocaust-themed films at schools across Hong Kong.



For further information about our past and upcoming events and workshops visit www.hkhtc.org

Please make donations payable to: The Hong Kong Holocaust and Tolerance Resource Centre Limited HKHTC, 460 Shau Kei Wan Road, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong.

Donations are tax-deductible in Hong Kong

Children of Chance



In this tender coming-of-age drama a Jewish boy finds friendship, camaraderie and safety in the shelter of a children's hospital in Nazi-occupied France.

In July 1942, a broken leg is a blessing in disguise for Maurice Gutman, who is taken away by ambulance just as the Jews of Paris are being rounded up by French police. While recovering, Maurice is diagnosed with tuberculosis, and is committed to a children's hospital ward for long-term treatment where he forms a close bond with the other boys. As the war intensifies, the sympathetic chief physician and his staff resort to drastic measures to keep Maurice and the other Jewish patients safe.

Based on a true story, *The Children of Chance* is a testament to the resilience and bravery of youth.

Highly recommended for 10-16 year olds.

France, 2016 French with English subtitles 100 mins | Drama Director: Malik Chibane

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5 2:30 PM

Awards

Award of the European Children's Film Association ECFA

Award at the Schlingel International Film Festival for Children and Young Audience in Chemnitz (Germany)

Seattle Jewish Film Festival 2017 Winner: Audience Choice Award: Best Foreign Feature

Kindly sponsored by the Hong Kong Holocaust and Tolerance Centre



To be shown in schools throughout Hong Kong

Presented in cooperation with the Consulate General of France

Mr Bernstein

USA, 2016 English | 12 mins | Short Director: Francine Zuckerman

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Years after her father Schaja's life-changing musical experience hearing Leonard Bernstein perform at a Displaced Person's Camp, Debbie tracks down the famous conductor with unexpected consequences.

Five of the Best Shorts - Sold as One Ticket.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5 4:30 PM followed by Mordechai

First of 5 Shorts

Awards

Nominated: CSC Award, Best Cinematography in Dramatic Short: André Pienaar (cinematographer)

Mordechai

UK, 2016 English | 14 mins | Short Director: Benjamin Bee



`In order to become the person you always wanted to be, you have to, on occasion, become someone else first...'

Daniel, an ultra-Orthodox Jew, hasn't seen his identical twin brother in years; Mordechai's 'life choices' were a bit too much for the family to handle

But today is the day of their father's funeral...

Mordechai is a funny and touching fable about family, faith and the roles we play. It is set around a traditional Jewish family, but has themes that will resonate with audiences of all faiths and backgrounds. SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5

> preceded by Mr Bernstein

Second of 5 Shorts

Awards

Palm Springs International ShortFest 2017: Nominated: Best of the Festival, Grand Prix Award

Rhode Island International Film Festival 2017 Nominated: Best Short, Grand Prize

Sunderland Shorts 2017 Winner: Jury Prize, Best Regional Film

Acheinu (Our Brothers)

Israel, 2017 Hebrew with English subtitles 5 mins | Drama, Short Director: Misha Zubarev

SUNDAY



Inspired by a real-life story, *Acheinu* depicts a conversation at an isolated bus stop between two strangers: Amir, a secular former Israel Defense Forces soldier and Yosef, an Orthodox man.

The two get into a heated discussion, leading them to an unforgettable turn of events and a journey of self-discovery that they could never have imagined.

This poignant short film aims to bridge the gap among Jews of different backgrounds, while offering universal appeal.

preceded by *Mordechai*

Third of 5 Shorts

Awards

Award of Merit June 2017

Joe's Violin

USA, 2016 | English | 24 mins Documentary, Short Director: Kahane Cooperman



In this award-winning documentary short, a 91-year-old Holocaust survivor donates his violin of 70 years to a local instrument drive, changing the life of a 12-year-old school girl from one of America's poorest districts, and unexpectedly, his own.

Joe's Violin poignantly illuminates how the power of music brings light in the darkest of times and how a small act can have a great impact, connecting people across generations and cultures.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5

preceded by
Acheinu

Fourth of 5 Shorts

Awards

2017 Oscar Nomination for Best Documentary Short Subject





An Average Story

Israel, 2015 | 18 mins English, Hebrew, Mandarin with English subtitles Narrative, Short Director: Yaniv Segalovich



Avi Cohen has just been informed that he's officially the most average man in Israel—which ought to be good news, since it instantly transforms him into a national icon. Unfortunately, Avi's plans with his wife to capitalize on their good fortune goes unpredictably awry. SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5

> preceded by Joe's Violin

Fifth of 5 Shorts

Awards

2016 Israeli Academy (Ophir) Awards Nominee - Best Short Feature

Roads



13 year-old Ismayil searches for a new life for himself and his younger brother outside the Arab drug slums of the city of Lod. When Daniel, a traumatized Israeli ex-soldier comes to the neighborhood looking for drugs in escape of his own reality, an unusual opportunity arises that will change their lives forever.

This short film, made at the Steve Tisch School of Film and Television at Tel Aviv University, was nominated for a student Academy Award and played at over 60 festivals in 36 countries, winning 24 awards, including top prizes at the Jerusalem Film Festival, the Beijing Film Festival and the International Association of Film Schools. The film has set the Guinness World Record for Most Awards Won by a Short Student Film. Israel, 2007 Hebrew with English subtitles 20 mins | Crime, Drama Director: Lior Geller

> SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5 6:00 PM

Awards

Academy Award Nominee – Best Foreign Student Film, 2008.

Winner – Best Short Film – Jerusalem Film Festival, Israel, 2007.

Winner – Best Asian Short Film -Beijing Short Film Festival, China, 2007.

European Academy Award Nominee – Best Documentary, 2009.

Winner – Most Valuable Documentary – Cinema for Peace Award, Berlin, 2009.

Winner – Audience Award – Movies That Matter Film Festival, The Hague, 2009..

Winner – Audience Award – Dubai International Film Festival, U.A.E., 2008.

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L'Origine de la Violence

Based on a best-selling novel of the same name, *The Origin of Violence* is a mesmerizing and stylish thriller full of unexpected twists and turns which explores grand themes of love, betrayal and revenge.

During a trip to Germany, a young Catholic teacher stumbles upon a photograph of a Jewish prisoner in Buchenwald concentration camp who bears a striking resemblance to his own father. His discovery prompts him to look into his family's past, by tracking down curators and survivors and confronting family members. Nathan pieces together secrets that have been kept hidden for more than 60 years that cause him to question everything he knew about his family and himself.

A memorable and gripping drama from veteran French filmmaker Élie Chouraqui.

Presented in cooperation with the Consulate General of France

France, 2016 French with English subtitles 120 mins | Drama, Thriller Director: Élie Chouraqui

> SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5 7:00 PM

Snacks will be served

Awards

Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival 2016

Winner Audience Award: Best Narrative Feature

Harmonia



Israel, 2016 98 mins | Drama Hebrew with English subtitles Director: Ori Sivan

> MONDAY NOVEMBER 6 7:00 PM

This contemporary adaptation of the biblical story of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar from the book of Genesis, is set in the world of the Jerusalem Philharmonic.

Sarah the harpist is married to Abraham, the conductor, and they cannot have children. When Hagar, a beautiful young horn-player from East Jerusalem joins the Orchestra, she bonds with Sarah and the two women develop a unique friendship. Hagar offers to have a baby with Abraham for the couple, shaking the thin balance in the family. When the baby is born, Hagar leaves the orchestra and gives the newborn child to Sarah and Abraham.

As the years pass by Ben develops into a phenomenal pianist, but he is wild and uncontrollable and grows increasingly estranged from Sarah. Sarah gets pregnant in her late forties, and gives birth to Isaac, and when the child is 3, Hagar returns to the orchestra. The reunion of Hagar and Sarah is bittersweet and when Ben discovers the secret of his birth, an unexpected series of events lead to the films fated ending.

Harmonia uncovers the metaphoric emotional roots of the ancient conflict between the two peoples living in Jerusalem, now seeking harmony through the world of classical music.

Awards

Jerusalem Film Festival 2016

Winner: Haggiag Award: Best Cinematography: Yaron Scharf

Winner: The Lia Van Leer Award: Ori Sivan

Winner: Van Leer Group Foundation Award: Best Cinematography: Yaron Scharf

Nomination: Haggiag Award: Best Israeli Feature: Ori Sivan

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1945



In this astonishingly haunting film, adapted from a short story by Gabor T. Szanto, deep undercurrents run beneath the simple surface.

On a sweltering August day in 1945, two Orthodox Jews' arrival in a remote Hungarian village catalyzes an unwelcome reckoning with the recent past for the local inhabitants. The sober-looking strangers dressed in black arrive by train on a day already filled with tensions – the villagers are preparing for the wedding of the town clerk's son. As the two men walk silently behind a horse-drawn cart carrying their mysterious wooden-crated goods, their presence elicits a spate of rumors.

1945 stunningly captures a transitional moment in European history with one village's actions reflecting the moral corrosion of an entire continent. Beautifully shot in black in white with a spare, melancholy score, this understated film quietly builds and ultimately packs an unexpected punch, a subtle and nuanced study in the collective guilt of postwar Hungary.

Hungary, 2017 Hungarian, Russian with English subtitles | 91 mins | Drama Director: Ferenc Török

> MONDAY NOVEMBER 6 9:00 PM

Awards

Winner: SF Film Critics Circle Award

Winner: Yad Vashem Chairman's Award - Jerusalem Film Festival 2017

Winner: Audience Award: Washington Jewish Film Festival 2017

Winner: Audience Award: Berlin Jewish Film Festival 2017

"We are proud of our audiences' selection of 1945 as this year's Audience Award Winner for Narrative Film. There is not a frame in this astonishing spiritual journey that isn't a thing of heartfelt, breathtaking beauty."

Kindly sponsored by the Hong Kong Holocaust and Tolerance Centre



To be shown in schools throughout Hong Kong

Presented in cooperation with the Consulate General of Hungary

Navember 19, 2017 The JWA ANNUAL CHARITY BAZAAR

Sunday 10 AM - 5 PM Island School

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The Ambassador's Wife



The beautiful and spoilt Yerusalem had a wonderful life in Paris as the wife of the Eritrean Ambassador. When radical nationalists arrest and then assassinate her husband, she is forced to flee for her life without the protection of government or friends.

Yerusalem finds herself in a refugee shelter in a decrepit area of south Tel Aviv where nobody cares about who she was. Among the desperation and poverty, she does not give up and struggles with all her might to regain her former status.

This compelling film sheds light on the reality of life on the margins of Israeli society, focusing in particular on the difficulties faced by those who have lost their identity by becoming stateless. Israel, 2016 Hebrew, English, French, Tigrigna with English subtitles 40 mins | Short Director: Dina Zvi-Riklis



Awards

Seoul International Women's Film Festival (SIWFF)

Haifa Film Festival

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Let's Dance!



Let's Dance! is a documentary film about the phenomenal success of the Israeli contemporary Modern Dance scene. It examines how Israel, despite its reputation as a militaristic and "macho" society, became a recognized world leader in Modern Dance and contributes to its historical development.

Combining spectacular pieces of video-dance, rich archival material, interviews and visual demonstrations, the film offers a unique and surprising view on Israeli society, and a spotlight on the generations of leading dancers and pioneering choreographers who have turned local dance into a national and international success story. Israel, 2015 Hebrew with English subtitles 72 mins | Documentary Director: Gabriel Bibliowicz

> TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7

preceded by The Ambassador's Wife



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Presented in cooperation with the Consulate General of Israel



We Wish the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival A Very Successful Year

Fischer Family

A Heartbeat Away



Dr. Akiva Tamir is an Israeli paediatric cardiologist sent to Africa to perform lifesaving operations in Tanzania, where five children die every day from heart conditions. Together with his team, Dr. Tamir examines hundreds of children, of which only a handful can receive treatment. When 6-year-old Julius arrives to the clinic in critical condition, the doctors are forced to choose whether to operate on the child, who has very little chance of surviving.

A Heartbeat Away is a riveting human drama that takes viewers on an emotional roller-coaster, swinging on the pendulum between science and faith, hope and despair, life and death.

Wine and refreshments will be served, kindly donated by Holy Land Wines Company.

Israel, 2016 | 55 mins Hebrew, English, Swahili with English subtitles | Drama Director: Tal Barda & Noam Pinchas

> TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7 7:00 PM

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Presented in cooperation with the Consulate General of Israel

WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS

The UIA is proud to support the HKJFF and the film When The Smoke Clears.

Keren Hayesod-UIA, in partnership with the global Jewish community, works to further the national priorities of the State of Israel and Israeli society, with special emphasis on advancing weaker communities; nurturing disadvantaged and marginalised youth; encouraging Aliyah; implementing rescue operations; and connecting young Diaspora Jews to Israel and Jewish life.



JEWISH

Celebrating 18 Year

G



KEREN HAYESOD קרן היסוד Donated by Philippe Bera, Daniel Green, Robert Dorfman, Bob Meyer, UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL ULA Directors Sharon Ser Jonathan Zergan, Daniel Kirwin, Pongo Zieg

When the Smoke Clears: A Story of Brotherhood, Resilience and Hope

Israel, 2017 Hebrew with English subtitles 85 mins | Drama Director: Rebecca Shore



When the Smoke Clears reveals powerful, personal and inspirational stories of young Israeli soldiers whose injuries have forced them to forge a new identity and rebuild their lives. Making breakthroughs and finding hope by reaching out to those in need, they discover renewed meaning and healing through giving to others. A moving documentary that shows us how, by overcoming adversity, we can become heroes in our own lives and in the lives of others.

This film tells the true stories of soldiers from Achim L'chaim - Brothers for Life, an organisation strongly supported by the HK Jewish community.

To be followed by a Talk and Q&A with Arale Wattenstein

Arale Wattenstein is the External Relations Coordinator for Achim L'Achim, Brothers for Life. He served as an officer in the Paratroopers division of the Israeli army and was injured by a Molotov cocktail in the city of Nablus in 2005.

Kindly sponsored by



Presented in cooperation with the Consulate General of Israel

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7 8:20 PM

Sharon Ser, Samantha Gershon and their Partners at Withers

are proud and delighted to support the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival and be part of this important event



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Above the Drowning Sea



On the eve of World War Two, tens of thousands of Jewish refugees were trapped in Nazi-controlled Vienna. This moving documentary tells the epic story of their dramatic escape to Shanghai, at a time when all other doors were closed to them. Sanctuary was provided thanks to the intervention of Chinese diplomat Ho Feng Shan, Chinese consul in Vienna, who defied the Nazis and his own government by issuing travel visas to the desperate refugees.

This riveting film, narrated by 'Scandal' star Tony Goldwyn and Julianna Margulies, tells the story from both the point of view of the refugees and the Chinese people who sheltered them.

An inspiring and poetic tale about two peoples who found common cause and dignity in a world in chaos; especially poignant in light of today's refugee crisis.

There will be an additional screening in English on Sunday, 12th November at 2.45 pm, when the Director will be in attendance.

In lieu of a screening fee HKJFF will make a donation to a charity for refugees.

This screening is in Chinese.

Canada, 2017 | 88 mins Chinese Version with English subtitles | Drama Director: Rene Balcer, Nicola Zavaglia



Awards

Julianna Margulies (Narrator):

Margulies has won eight Screen Actor Guild Awards, which has made her the most awarded woman ever within SAG. In 2015, TIME featured her as one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World".

Kindly sponsored by

Withers 衛達仕 律師事務所 37

Presented in cooperation with the Consulate General of Canada

A Quiet Heart



Israel, 2016 Hebrew with English subtitles 92 mins | Thriller Director: Eitan Anner

> WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8 7:00 PM

A riveting suspense thriller about the evils of religious intolerance.

Ania Bukstein (Game of Thrones) stars as Naomi, a secular young woman suffering a personal crisis that threatens to derail her career as a concert pianist. Overwhelmed by the expectations of her parents and her colleagues, she flees Tel Aviv and moves to Jerusalem to seek anonymity and solitude in the ancient city. Renting an apartment in an Ultra-Orthodox neighborhood, Naomi quickly makes two unexpected connections – one with a musically gifted religious boy in her building, and the other with a charismatic Italian monk and organist.

The film delivers an interesting examination of the tensions between Jerusalem's secular and religious communities.

Awards

Screened and won at Locarno Film Festival - First Look section for Works in Progress

Haifa International Film Festival

Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Grand Prize and Jury Prize for Best Actress, Ania Bukstein, 2016

Bogdan's Journey



In a story that begins with murder and ends with reconciliation, one man persuades the people of Kielce, Poland, to confront the truth about the darkest moment in their recent past: Kielce is the site of Europe's last Jewish pogrom.

In 1946 forty holocaust survivors were murdered by Kielce townspeople. Communist authorities suppressed the story, leaving the town deeply torn and embittered.

Bogdan Bialek, a Catholic Pole and trained psychologist, has made it his life's work to persuade the people of Kielce to acknowledge their past, to reconnect the city with the international Jewish community, and to transform Kielce into a place of dialogue and reconciliation. Poland, USA, Israel, 2016 90 mins | Polish, English, Hebrew with English subtitles Documentary, Biography Director: Michal Jaskulski and Lawrence Loewinger

> WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8 9:00 PM

Awards

Jewish Motifs, International Film Festival (Poland), Grand Prix, Audience Choice Award and Best Polish Film Award

Warsaw Jewish Film Festival, Camera of David Special Award

Cinema St. Louis International Film Festival (US) Interfaith Best Documentary Award

Jersey City International Television and Film Festival (US) Best Documentary Award

Kindly sponsored by the Hong Kong Holocaust and Tolerance Centre



To be shown in schools throughout Hong Kong

Presented in cooperation with the Consulate General of Israel, the American Consulate General and the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland

NOT The Last Butterfly



Starting as a grass roots arts and education initiative, The Butterfly Project, has swelled into a global phenomenon, collecting 1.5 million handmade ceramic butterflies from around the world to create displays that memorialise the 1.5 million children killed in the Holocaust – one butterfly painted for each child.

NOT The Last Butterfly presents the inspiring tale of the The Butterfly Project's 20-year history, with messages of hope and healing woven together with survivors' courageous stories of these dark times.

Recommended for Schools.

USA, Czech Republic, Israel, Poland, 2016 English | 59 mins Documentary, History Director: Cheryl Rattner Price, Joe Fab (co-director)



Matinée

Awards

San Diego Jewish Film Festival 2017

Winner: Audience Award, Best Documentary Feature

JCC Rockland International Jewish Film Festival

Winner: Best Short, Under An Hour

Kindly sponsored by the Hong Kong Holocaust and Tolerance Centre



To be shown in schools throughout Hong Kong

Presented in cooperation with the Consulate General of Israel and the American Consulate General

Cloudy Sunday



A recent box office hit and award-winner in Greece, this is a powerful and beautifully rendered tale of war-time romance in Thessaloniki between a Jewish girl and a Christian resistance fighter. Set against the backdrop of German-occupation, the young lovers are forced to make some painful decisions.

The film's compelling story and stunning cinematography are paired with an outstanding soundtrack inspired by the songs of Vassilis Tsitsanis, including his famous composition, "Cloudy Sunday," which gives the film its title. Greece, 2015 | 118 mins Greek with English subtitles Drama Director: Manousos Manousakis

> THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9 7:00 PM

Awards

Hellenic Film Academy Iris Awards 2016 Winners:

Best Costume Design: Anna Maherianaki

Best Make-up: Nabile Salame

Best Supporting Actress: Vasiliki Troufakou

Moos

Netherlands, 2016 Dutch with English subtitles 91 mins | Romantic Comedy Director: Job Gosschalk



Awkward but lovable twenty-something single gal Moos has dedicated her life to taking care of her widowed father, but decides to follow her dreams by auditioning for drama school.

After a devastating audition, she takes a job at the school's cafeteria, pretending to her family that she is attending classes. Life gets complicated as Moos finds herself caught between her best friend from Israel, a flirty singing teacher, and her meddling family.

A charming comedy about love, family and chasing your dreams.

Wine and Dutch cheese will be served

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9:15 PM

AmeriCraft Imports



The Jerusalem film Workshop is a six week program for young filmmakers to receive hands-on film education, travel in Israel, and create a documentary film. Participants will gain comprehensive knowledge of film production and expand their professional network, all while living in Jerusalem. Over the course of six weeks participants will develop and advance their cinematography, editing, screenwriting, and directing skills. They will also have the opportunity to create a documentary film while using the tools and equipment we provide accompanied by guidance from out teachers and mentars

We are proud that one of our 2017 participant's films has been selected for the 2017 Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival.

> Applications for 2018 to: Jerusalem Film Workshop director@thejfw.com



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Hamavdil: from Morning to Night

Israel, 2017 | 10 mins Hebrew with English subtitles Documentary, Short Director: Erik Hirschhorn



Machane Yehuda, a market that never sleeps; popular with locals and tourists alike. The characters and the ambience are unrivalled, a poem to those of the old generation and the new, those who work there and those who come to shop, eat, and party...

This short student film is about the famous Jerusalem 'Shuk' and its transition each day from a bustling, colourful marketplace filled with noisy vendors and a melange of shoppers, to a unique nightlife centre, with independent bars, eclectic restaurants and live music haunts.

The film was selected from this year's Jerusalem Film Workshop, a six week program for young filmmakers from around the world.

Machane Yehuda style refreshments will be served from 8pm.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER]] 8:30 PM

followed by The 90 Minute War

DOUBLE FEATURE

Snacks will be served at 8 PM

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Presented in cooperation with the Consulate General of Israel



We Wish the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival A Very Successful Year

debby, jeremy and ellie amias

The 90 Minute War

In this sharp-edged political mockumentary, a century of intractable conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is going to be settled once and for all . . . on the soccer field.

The region's leaders, in a desperate attempt to end the stalemate, have agreed that one 90-minute match will determine the fate of the two peoples: The winner gets to stay, and the loser leaves forever.

Organizing the high-stakes match is not without its own complications: Where will the match be held? Who will be the referees? Can Israeli-Arabs play on Israel's team?

The 90 Minute War is a dark satire that scores some serious points.

Germany, Israel 2015 | 83 mins Hebrew, Arabic, English, Portuguese with English subtitles Mockumentary Director: Eyal Halfon

> SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11 8:40 PM

preceded by Hamavdil: from Morning to Night

Snacks will be served at 8 PM

Awards

The Israeli Academy of Film and Television nominated for the Ophir Awards:

Moshe Ivgy - Best Actor

Norman Issa – Best Supporting Actor

Arik Leibovitz - Best Editing

Kindly sponsored by the

Amias Family

Presented in cooperation with the Consulate General of Israel and the Consulate General of Germany

Operation Wedding



Leningrad, 1970. A group of young Jewish dissidents plots to hijack an empty plane and escape the USSR under the disguise of a trip to a local wedding. Caught by the KGB, they were sentenced to years in the gulag and two were sentenced to death. While the Soviet press condemned the group as criminals, tens of thousands of people in the free world demanded "Let My People Go!".

Forty-five years later, through a collage of intimate interviews, access to rare archives and reenactment in both Israel and Russia, filmmaker Anat Zalmanson-Kuznetsov reveals the compelling story of her parents who cracked the Iron Curtain.

To be followed by a Q & A from Anya and Dima Apelbaum, whose families escaped from the Soviet Union.

Israel, Latvia, 2016 Polish, English, Hebrew with English subtitles 62 mins | Documentary Director: Anat Zalmanson-Kuznetsov

> SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12 1:00 PM

Awards

Winner: Award of Recognition Feature Documentary

Winner: HIIDA Award: Best story

Above the Drowning Sea



On the eve of World War Two, tens of thousands of Jewish refugees were trapped in Nazi-controlled Vienna. This moving documentary tells the epic story of their dramatic escape to Shanghai, at a time when all other doors were closed to them. Sanctuary was provided thanks to the intervention of Chinese diplomat Ho Feng Shan, Chinese consul in Vienna, who defied the Nazis and his own government by issuing travel visas to the desperate refugees.

This riveting film, narrated by 'Scandal' star Tony Goldwyn and Julianna Margulies, tells the story from both the point of view of the refugees and the Chinese people who sheltered them. An inspiring and poetic tale about two peoples who found common cause and dignity in a world in chaos; especially poignant in light of today's refugee crisis.

There is an additional screening in Chinese on Wednesday, 8th November at 11am.

The Director will be in attendance today and there will be a Q & A following the screening.

In lieu of a screening fee HKJFF will make a donation to a charity for refugees.

Canada, 2017 | 88 mins English Version with Chinese subtitles | Drama Director: Rene Balcer, Nicola Zavaglia

> SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12 2:45 PM

> > 中文字幕

Awards

Julianna Margulies (Narrator):

Margulies has won eight Screen Actor Guild Awards, which has made her the most awarded woman ever within SAG. In 2015, TIME featured her as one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World".

Kindly sponsored by

Withers 衛達仕 ^{律師事務所}

Presented in cooperation with the Consulate General of Canada

Box for Life



This is the story of Belgian-born Noah Klieger, who smuggled Jewish children from Belgium to Switzerland when he was just a boy and who reluctantly became a fighter at the age of 16 in order to survive. He was captured by the Germans and sent to the Auschwitz death camp, where he boxed for his life and survived.

On his return to Belgium after the Second World War Noah volunteered to help the "Hagana" organization to smuggle Jews by illegal immigration to Israel, eventually joining them aboard the renowned ship "Exodus – 1947". Today Noah is 89 years old; a highly respected journalist for one of Israel's daily papers, and a former chairman of the Maccabi Tel Aviv Basketball Team.

This moving and engaging documentary chronicles Noah's incredible life journey, and is based on his book 'A Dozen Rolls for Breakfast'.

Israel, France, Belgium, Poland, 2016 Hebrew, French, Dutch, Polish with English subtitles 60 mins | Documentary Director: Uri Borreda

> SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12 5:00 PM

Awards

May 2017 Jewish Motifs Film Festival Warsaw

Kindly sponsored by the Hong Kong Holocaust and Tolerance Centre



To be shown in schools throughout Hong Kong

Presented in cooperation with the Consulate General of Israel, the Consulate General of France and the Consulate General of Belgium

Israel, 2016 | 100 mins Hebrew with English subtitles Comedy, Drama Director: Arik Rotstein

Joshua, an 80-year-old Holocaust survivor, suspects that a cellular antenna has been installed on the roof of his house and he feels a terrible injustice has been done. Waging war against his neighbor, Joshua's wife Sarah and their 3 adult sons are dragged unwillingly into the crisis, which shakes up all their lives and threatens to break up the family.

The result is a complex, touching, and often absurd portrait of a vibrant family forced to deal with the shadows of their father's traumatic past.

Awards

Winner: Anat Pirchi Award for Best Editing, Shira Arad



Antenna

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12 6:20 PM

Menashe



Deep in the heart of New York's ultra-orthodox Hasidic Jewish community, Menashe, a kind, hapless grocery store clerk, struggles to make ends meet and raise his young son Rieven, following his wife Leah's death. Tradition prohibits Menashe from raising his son alone so the widower must battle for custody.

This unique and tender drama, loosely based on the life of the lead actor and performed entirely in Yiddish, intimately explores the nature of faith and the price of parenthood.

A surprise critical hit at both the Sundance and Berlin Film Festivals.

USA, Israel, 2017 82 mins | Docu-drama Yiddish with English subtitles Director: Joshua Weinstein

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12 8:15 PM

CLOSING FILM

Awards

Nashville Film Festival 2017

Winner: Lipscomb Ecumenical Prize: Joshua Z Weinstein

Sarasota Film Festival 2017

Winner: Terry Porter Visionary Award: Joshua Z Weinstein

Sundance Film Festival 2017

Nominated: Audience Award Best of Next!: Joshua Z Weinstein

Edinburgh International Film Festival 2017

Nominated: Best International Feature Film, Joshua Z Weinstein

Jerusalem Film Festival 2017

Nominated: FIPRESCI Prize: International First Film, Joshua Z Weinstein

Nominated: The Lia Van Leer Award, Joshua Z Weinstein

Presented in cooperation with the Consulate General of Israel and the American Consulate General

TICKET INFORMATION

HOW TO GET YOUR TICKETS

MACHER PASSES

Our Opening Night and the whole festival will take place at Asia Society Hong Kong Center. Opening Night tickets are available right now through our website: <u>www.hkjff.org</u>

Tickets are also available through Asia Society Hong Kong Center's website <u>http://asiasociety.org/hong-kong</u>.

The website accepts all major credit cards and PayPal. Service charges may apply. Credit card and membership discounts will not apply during the festival.

 INDIVIDUAL TICKETS
 Adults: HK\$90 each

 Students and seniors (over 60): HK\$80 each
 Good for one admission to all screenings except the Opening Night screening and the post-film kosher party.

 OPENING NIGHT TICKETS
 Adults: HK\$380 each

Students and seniors (over 60): HK\$350 each Good for one admission to the Opening Night screening and the post-film kosher party.

> HK\$1,800 each Good for one admission to each screening. Includes admission to the Opening Night screening and the post-film kosher party. Also entitles you to show your friends you really are a macher ("big shot")!

> > Festival Macher passholders only need to arrive at the cinema at least 15 minutes before each film to get a prime seat. No prebooking is required. Now that's another reason to get a pass this year! PASSES ARE LIMITED!

.....

THE FINE PRINT ON
TICKETING AND SEATINGPlease be advised that there is no reserved seating and NO
eating or drinking will be allowed in the theatre.The best seats in the house are available for Festival Macher
pass holders but empty Festival Macher seats will be released
for general sale 15 minutes before each screening. Please arrive
early to avoid disappointment.Purchased tickets cannot be refunded or exchanged unless a
show is oversold (which can happen). Festival Macher pass and
complimentary coupon holders are not entitled to a refund if
they arrive at the cinema after a show is sold out.Complimentary coupon holders are advised to exchange their
coupons for tickets well abord of the start of the festival * Festival

Complimentary coupon holders are davised to exchange their coupons for tickets well ahead of the start of the festival.* Festival Macher pass holders only need to present their passes to one of the festival volunteers at the entrance prior to each screening to gain entry.

*Please contact info@hkjff.org for more details.

SCHE All films are at Asia Soc

9 Justice Drive, Ad Book now on

4 NOVEMBER SATURDAY		
8:00 PM	OPENING NIGHT	
	On The Map	
5 NOVEMBER SUNDA	NY	
1:00 PM	Hate Spaces	
2:30 PM	Children of Chance	
4:30 PM	5 of the Best Shorts:	
	Mr. Bernstein +	
	Mordechai +	
	Acheinu (Our Brothers) + Joe's Violin +	
	An Average Story	
6:00 PM	Roads	
7:00 PM	L'Origine de la Violence	
6 NOVEMBER MONDAY		
7:00 PM	Harmonia	
9:00 PM	1945	
7 NOVEMBER TUESDAY		
11:00 AM	The Ambassador's Wife +	
	Let's Dance!	
7:00 PM	A Heartbeat Away	
8:20 PM	When the Smoke Clears: A Story of Brotherhood, Resilience and Hope	

DULE iety Hong Kong Center miralty, Hong Kong

www.hkjff.org

8 NOVEMBER WEDNESDAY				
11:00 AM	Above the Drowning Sea	Chinese Version (中文版)		
7:00 PM	A Quiet Heart			
	Bogdan's Journey			
9 NOVEMBER THURSDAY				
11:00 AM	NOT The Last Butterfly			
7:00 PM	Cloudy Sunday			
9:15 PM	Moos			
11 NOVEMBER SATUR	RDAY			
8:30 PM	Hamavdil: from Morning to Night + The 90 Minute War			
12 NOVEMBER SUNDAY				
1:00 PM	Operation Wedding			
2:45 PM	Above the Drowning Sea	Presented with Chinese subtitles		
		(有中文字幕)		
5:00 PM	Box for Life			
6:20 PM	Antenna			
8:15 PM	Menashe CLOSING FILM	香港猫太電影節 HK JEWISH OO NN FILM GG FESTIVAL Celebrating 18 Years		

Celebrating 18 Ye



Programme Go

















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