19th HK JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

3-11 NOVEMBER 2018
Generously supported by

The Ohel Leah Synagogue Charity
Dear Festival Supporters,

It is an honor and a pleasure to welcome you to another edition of the Hong Kong Jewish Festival, our 19th edition, and my first as Chair.

2018 saw the departure of our Chair Debby Amias, as well as several Board members whom we thank for their significant contribution and dedication. As one door closes, another opens and luckily, our Board has fortunately seen numerous new faces ensuring a smooth transition.

With the generous support and help of our Donors, we are able to bring to Hong Kong a comprehensive selection of the best Jewish themed features and documentaries which should entertain, educate and inform. This year we bring you exciting new partnerships as well as VIPs and guests from abroad that will enhance and bring a whole new flavour to the festival.

My appreciation goes to the Asia Society Hong Kong Center, a prime cultural venue; the members of the Festival’s Board; the Viewing Committee, as well as Nicole Izsak, our Festival Producer.

Looking forward to seeing you throughout the Festival.

Eli Bitan
HKJFF Chairman
November 2018

Dear friends,

This year, the State of Israel celebrates its 70th anniversary. As we review the many successful achievements of our country we look at the contributions of Israeli movie industry to our society. Movies form an integral part of our cultural lives. It could be characterized as storytellers of a nation.

Although movies were made in Israel even before the establishment of the Jewish State in 1948, it is only since the millennium year onwards that Israel cinematography has reached its golden era and gained international success in the most prestigious stages and festivals.

Therefore, it is no surprise that the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival, since its establishment in 1999, has been a pioneer in introducing the best of Israeli and Jewish films to the region. Each year, the Festival brings engaging and remarkable films from Israel that represent its multiculturalism.

This year, we welcome and wish Mr. Eli Bitan, the new Chair to the HKJFF and the board members continued success in their endeavours. The Consulate General of Israel in Hong Kong has been a staunch supporter of the HKJFF in this annual event, and we look forward to continuing the happy cooperation in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Ahuva Spieler
Consul General of Israel
Message from the Israeli Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong

My heartiest congratulations on the 19th 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 18 years, especially thanks for the leadership of Eli Bitan and his colleagues.

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 people of Hong Kong, Macau and China.

We couldn’t have come this far without you.

Best wishes

Dr. Rafael Aharoni, BBS
Chairman  
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Fax. 852-2311-6999  
E-mail : icochk@biznetvigator.com
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The Viewing Committee
Debby Amias, Eli Bitan, Yael Bronner, Louise Brown, Shani Brownstein, Michael Fleisher, Slavica Habjanovic, Amit Oz, Sharon Ser, Justin Solomon and Dina Wosner.

A very big thanks to
Nicole Izsak - Festival Producer and Sharon Cooper - Website Designer

Special thanks to
Stanley Kong at the Asia Society and Neil Morgan & Daniel Tse at the JCC

We thank our sponsors and participating organisations for their generous support

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AIA promotes healthy living while providing the right protection solutions to customers, so they can enjoy quality time with their loved ones while being protected against risks.
OUR SUPPORTERS

Without the support of the following people and organisations, the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival would just be a dream.

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Marc Wathen
Joy & David Zweig

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

Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year
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ALB Hong Kong Law Awards 2017

Top ranked for family/matrimonial
Top ranked for private wealth law
Chambers Asia-Pacific 2018

Private Client: Estate Planning
Leadership: Woman in Wealth Management
WealthBriefingAsia Awards 2018
Two women - a Mossad agent and a Lebanese informant - find themselves trapped in a labyrinth of deception, paranoia and intrigue. Naomi is an Israeli special agent assigned to protect Mona, a Hezbollah turncoat recovering from identity-changing plastic surgery in a Hamburg safe house. In an atmosphere of distrust and as tensions rise, both women begin to question their beliefs and loyalties as they form an unexpected but fragile bond. A nail biting thriller directed by veteran film maker Eran Riklis with standout performances by an award winning cast.

Q & A with Special guest, Yossi Alpher

Alpher served in the Israel Defense Forces as an Intelligence officer, followed by service in the Mossad. From 1981 to 1995 he was associated with the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, ultimately serving as director of center. From 1995 to 2000 he headed the American Jewish Committee's Israel-Middle East Office. In 2000 (during the Camp David talks) he served as Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Israel, concentrating on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.
Kindford Limited congratulates Hong Kong Jewish Festival on his 19th great year!
It’s Yom Hazikaron – Israeli Memorial Day and Shir, a bright enigmatic 17 year old skips school, evades her mom and tries to run away from her memories of her brother. This poignant short film follows Shir as she spends the day acting out against the established rules only to discover that you can’t escape yourself.

\[ \text{SHIR} \]

**Awards**
- Israeli Film Academy 2017
- Best Short Feature Film
The HKHTC is delighted to support the 19th 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
In this poignant film, a woman is preparing her flat for departure. Step by step she seems to be following a very strict set of rules. When she realizes she is missing some money for the train, she is forced to beg her neighbor for help.
This short follows a group of Jewish Senior citizens who have rediscovered the joys of community in old age. Each week they celebrate the Jewish Sabbath at the local Wendy's fast food restaurant. Hebrew blessings are combined with burgers and fries, and a sense of belonging.
In 2010, a collection of wartime letters and photographs by pupil Louise Pikovsky were discovered in Paris. The last note dates to the day Louise and her family were captured and eventually deported to Auschwitz, where the family all perished.

Journalist Stéphanie Trouillard together with Khalida Hatchy, a teacher and librarian, explore Louise’s story and track down witnesses, cousins and former classmates. Through months of research, they piece together fragments of a life cut tragically short.
ACROSS THE LINE

SHORT #4

Israel | 2017
Short, Comedy | Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles | 29 mins
Director: Nadav Shlomo Giladi

A witty and humorous short about an unexpected encounter between a Jewish settler and a Palestinian hitchhiker. The two face a challenge to their preconceived ideas of one another, and a series of misunderstandings leads to lessons about communication and friendship.

Awards
2017 Winner: Jury Award for Best Short Film, Stonybrook Film Festival

Sponsored by
Consulate General of Israel
This touching short follows Elina, the 7 year old daughter of a Russian immigrant. She wants nothing more than to belong to Israeli society and fit in with her peers. Her mother, however, finds it harder to navigate the nuances of their environment and adapt to their new way of life, critical if she is to help her daughter assimilate.

Awards
2018: Semi Finalist, Indie Best Films Festival

Sponsored by
TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY
Consulate General of Israel
The UIA is proud to support the HKJFF and the film The Rolling Bridge.

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.
Yom Kippur War, 1973: the Israeli army had to cross the Suez Canal with armoured vehicles in order to win the war. A unique idea had been developed but never tested. This incredible invention would allow the army to cross under heavy enemy fire without exposing any Israeli soldiers, and became the turning point in winning the war.
Oriental Properties Agency
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Penina and Avi Naqar and family congratulates the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival on its 14th great year!

Moving? Thinking of moving?

Contact
Penina
E-098635
M: (852) 9023-3589
penina@netvigator.com
France has experienced a dramatic rise in anti-Semitism in recent years. Politicians, leaders and social influencers are no longer hiding in the shadows but publically voicing their virulently racist agendas. While many Jews no longer feel safe on the streets, the real battlefield plays out online, where hatred has no limits or censorship. This reality has given birth to a new kind of vigilante, a Zionist hacker by the name of Ulcan. He declares a one-man-war on the leaders of the anti-Semitic movement, and isn’t afraid to use very unorthodox methods to fight his cause.
SCREENING SCHEDULE
All films at Asia Society Hong Kong Center
9 Justice Drive, Admiralty, Hong Kong
Book now on www.hkjff.org

3 NOVEMBER SATURDAY
8:00 PM OPENING NIGHT
Shelter

4 NOVEMBER SUNDAY
1:30 PM Shir
2:30 PM The Departure + Wendy’s Shabbat +
If I Ever Come Back + Across The Line +
Elina + The Rolling Bridge

4:30 PM The Patriot
6:00 PM In Between
8:00 PM The Mossad - Imperfect Spies

5 NOVEMBER MONDAY
7:00 PM Act of Defiance
9:30 PM On My Way Out

6 NOVEMBER TUESDAY
7:30 PM The Field
9:00 PM The Testament
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Movie</th>
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<tr>
<td>7 November Wednesday</td>
<td>7:15 PM</td>
<td>The Silenced Walls</td>
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<td>9:00 PM</td>
<td>The Cakemaker</td>
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<td>8 November Thursday</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Why The Jews?</td>
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<td>9:00 PM</td>
<td>The Last Suit</td>
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<td>9 November Friday - Special Screening at the Fringe Club</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>The Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 November Saturday</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Your Honour - Episodes 1 - 6</td>
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<td>11 November Sunday</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas</td>
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<td>3:15 PM</td>
<td>The Museum</td>
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<td>4:45 PM</td>
<td>Back to Berlin</td>
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<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Your Honour - Episodes 7 - 12</td>
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Congratulations to the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival on its 19th Anniversary from Jewish Times Asia
FILM & SYNOPSIS

Three independent Arab-Israeli women choose a life of freedom in the heart of Tel Aviv, a far cry from their traditional upbringing. When the religiously conservative Nour joins as their new roommate, their drug-fueled bohemian lifestyle comes under sharp scrutiny.

A shocking sequence of events bonds the roommates and blurs the lines of their relative differences. In Between is a compelling film with unforgettable performances.

Warning: film contains explicit content

IN BETWEEN

Israel, France 2016 | Drama
Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles | 103 mins
Director: Mayasaloun Hamoud

NOV. 4
SUNDAY @ 6:00 PM

Sponsored by
Consulate General of Israel
I am so proud to sponsor this important film. Congratulations on The Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival's 19th Year

Robert L. Meyer
The Mossad, Israel’s foreign intelligence agency is both feared and respected in equal measures, but rarely engages with the media. Now, for the first time, dozens of former operatives have agreed to be interviewed, offering fascinating first-hand accounts and revealing personal and political dilemmas they have faced as operatives for this infamous agency.

Q & A with Special guest, Yossi Alpher

Alpher served in the Israel Defense Forces as an Intelligence officer, followed by service in the Mossad. From 1981 to 1995 he was associated with the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, ultimately serving as director of center. From 1995 to 2000 he headed the American Jewish Committee’s Israel-Middle East Office. In 2000 (during the Camp David talks) he served as Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Israel, concentrating on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.
South Africa - summer 1963. Ten political activists including Nelson Mandela and Jewish anti-Apartheid fighters, face a possible death sentence for conspiring to commit sabotage against the government. Bram Fischer, their gutsy lawyer, risks both his career and his family to expose South Africa’s corrupt, unjust system, while attempting to hide his own ties to the resistance. A nail-biting political thriller with spectacular courtroom intrigue, this movie serves as a tribute to the legendary figures who fought to end segregation and corruption in their country.

**Q & A with special guests, Jonathan Penkin and Madoda Ntshinga**

Jonathan Penkin was an active anti-apartheid student activist in the 1980’s.

Madoda Ntshinga is Consul General of South Africa for Hong Kong and Macau.

**Awards**

- Winner – Best Feature Film
- Dayton Jewish Film Festival 2018
- Winner – Best Film – UK Jewish Film Festival 2017
- Audience Favorite – Gold Award
- Mill Valley Film Festival 2017

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- Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Consulate General of South Africa
A moving love story of grandparents who, after 60 years of what appeared to be a model marriage, reveal that they had been keeping a huge secret from their entire family. As Holocaust survivors who experienced trauma and loss, their lives have been filled with darkness. Yet somehow, their remarkable spirits allowed them to persevere and succeed in America. On my way out connects with the core values of what makes us human beings and our need to love and be loved.
Ali Abu Awwad has dedicated his family’s field to create a Palestinian center for nonviolence. Ali’s life has not been easy. His brother was killed by an Israeli soldier during the Second Intifada, and he, like his activist mother, has served substantial time in an Israeli prison. Now Ali, together with a local Israeli settler Shaul Judelman, has repurposed his anger to create “Roots,” an organization dedicated to advancing co-existence and political reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. Directed by Rabbi Mordechai Vardi, resident of Gush Etzion in the West Bank, this fly-on-the-wall documentary offers a unique perspective on the challenges of the troubled region.
The Testament

This powerful and gripping drama centres on Yoel, a senior historian and Orthodox Jew who is battling influential industrialists who plan to build over the site of a suspected WWII massacre. While investigating the incident and examining the testimony of survivors, Yoel makes a shocking and heartbreaking discovery about his mother. This threatens to turn his life and that of his family upside down as he risks everything to uncover the truth.

Austria, Israel | 2018 | Drama
Hebrew, German, English, Yiddish
with English subtitles | 93 mins
Director: Amichai Greenberg

NOV. 6
TUESDAY @ 9:00 PM

Awards
Winner: Haifa International Film Festival, 2017

Sponsored by

Hong Kong Holocaust Centre
Consulate General of Israel
At first glance, “La Muette” is a low-income post-war housing project like thousands of others in the Paris area. However, these buildings stand on the site of Drancy, where almost 70,000 Jews were detained until most were sent to their deaths in Auschwitz. After the war it was turned into a housing development with some of the lowest rents in the Paris suburbs. During the annual Holocaust commemorations at the site, the paths of current residents and former detainees cross, offering a tragic reminder of the atrocities and bearing witness to the dark history of the site.
Thomas, a talented German baker, embarks on a passionate affair with Oren, an Israeli married businessman. When Oren dies suddenly in a car crash, a grieving Thomas travels to Oren’s hometown, Jerusalem, seeking solace. He takes a job at the cafe run by Oren’s unsuspecting widow Anat. As business flourishes thanks to his culinary talents, the bereaved pair forge a bond that blurs the lines of nationality, religion and sexuality.
A third of the medical faculty at Harvard is Jewish, as are nearly 40 percent of world chess champions. Just 1/500th of the world's population have produced numerous prominent musicians, architects, lawyers, doctors, journalists, philosophers, painters, comedians and directors. The stunning accomplishments of this tiny nation have long raised the taboo question - how do they do it? Including interviews with Shimon Peres, Dr. Ruth, Noam Chomsky, Daniel Libeskind, Alan Dershowitz and other leading figures, this film tackles an interesting subject too often shrouded in ignorance and prejudice.
Abraham Bursztein, an 88-year old Jewish tailor, leaves Buenos Aires for Poland, where he tries to find the man who saved him from a certain death after surviving Auschwitz. Against all odds, after more than seven decades with no news from him, Abraham will attempt to find his old friend and fulfill his promise of returning one day to tell him about the life he has lived thanks to his courage.

The Last Suit

Argentina, Spain | 2017 | Drama
Spanish, German, Polish, Yiddish with English subtitles | 86 mins
Director: Pablo Solarz

Awards
Winner Audience Award – Miami Film Festival 2018 – Best Feature Film – Pablo Solarz
Winner Audience Award – Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival 2018 – Best Narrative Feature
Winner – Golden Space Needle Award – Seattle International Film Festival 2018 – Best Actor Miguel Angel Solá

Sponsored by
Cynthia and Daniel Fleischer

Consulate General of Argentina
The Museum

Observant, sensitive and breathtakingly beautiful, The Museum seeks to explore the Israeli soul through examining Israel’s most important cultural institution, the Israel Museum. The film follows the visitors, observes the observers, listens to the speakers and descends to the storerooms, labs and conference rooms. For about 18 months director Ran Tal collected footage of the daily routine of the museum that seeks to both reflect and mold the Israeli legacy and culture.

Q & A with Special Guest, Florian Knothe, Director of The University Museum and Art Gallery, University of Hong Kong.

Sponsored by

Consulate General of Israel
Brilliant judge Micah Alkoby is headed for a big promotion when life changes in the blink of an eye. His teenage son Shay is the guilty party in a hit-and-run accident. Just as Micah is about to turn him in, he learns that the victim is a member of a notorious crime family who would likely seek justice in the form of revenge. Just how many laws is Micah willing to break, and how far will he go in order to protect his son? Dark and morally complex, Your Honour is a gripping Israeli series with unforeseen plot twists that has already been optioned for a US remake.

Refreshments will be served

Awards
Winner – Grand Prize – Best Series – Series Mania

Sponsored by
Louise and Udi Oz
Dreaming of A Jewish Christmas

An offbeat, irreverent documentary about Irving Berlin, Mel Tormé and the many other Jewish immigrants who wrote the soundtrack to Christmas. Penning such yuletide classics as “White Christmas,” “Let It Snow” and “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” these artists amplified the spirit of the holidays through their music. With signature renditions of these beloved melodies, amusingly set in a Chinese restaurant, musicologists, religious leaders, comedians and others add insights into the unusual and seemingly contradictory relationship American Jews have with Christmas.
THE MUSEUM

Israel | 2017 | Documentary
Hebrew with English subtitles
74 mins
Director: Ran Tal

Observant, sensitive and breathtakingly beautiful, The Museum seeks to explore the Israeli soul through examining Israel’s most important cultural institution, the Israel Museum. The film follows the visitors, observes the observers, listens to the speakers and descends to the storerooms, labs and conference rooms. For about 18 months director Ran Tal collected footage of the daily routine of the museum that seeks to both reflect and mold the Israeli legacy and culture.

Sponsored by

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the israel museum, jerusalem

Consulate General of Israel
Looking forward to
the 21st Maccabiah Games in 2021
*World's 3rd Largest International Sports Event*

Maccabi World Union has enjoyed a year of excellent mass events infused with Jewish and Zionist motivation, all working towards the Maccabi answer to the difficult times that we live in.

In 1932, when the Jews were not welcome to join the International Olympics, we, the Jews decided to open our own games.

In 2017, we had celebrated the 20th Maccabiah games in Israel with 10,000 athletes worldwide, approximately 30,000 participants in the opening ceremony in Jerusalem including a terrific delegation from Hong Kong, Macau, China, and we even brought some lovely medals.

There is no doubt that the 20th Maccabiah was not only symbolic of being 85 years old and the 20th Games, but it was also being 50 years since Jerusalem united, 100 years since the Balfour Declaration and 120 years since the establishment of the Zionist Movement.

On Sunday, 11 November, Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival will screen “Back to Berlin” which will bring us back to the establishment of Maccabi World Union.

I am proud to say Maccabi is very active in Hong Kong. We are looking forward the 21st Maccabiah Games with the bigger, stronger and higher delegation from Hong Kong, Macau and China.

I wish you all a successful film festival as in the past, especially thanks for the leadership of Eli Bitan and his colleagues.

CHAZAK CHAZAK V’NITCHAZEK!

Dr. Rafael Aharoni, BBS
Chairman

Thank you.
We couldn’t have come this far without you.
Back to Berlin is the first biker flick-meets-holocaust feature documentary. Eleven motor bikers have a mission to take the Maccabiah torch from Israel to the site of the infamous 1936 Berlin Olympics, for the first Jewish Olympic Games on German soil. They will retrace the heroic journeys of the original 1930s’ Maccabiah riders and discover how they or their families survived the Holocaust.

Q & A with Director, Catherine Lurie

Screening in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

Film production supported by Andrew Cohen

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YOUR HONOUR

Brilliant judge Micah Alkoby is headed for a big promotion when life changes in the blink of an eye. His teenage son Shay is the guilty party in a hit-and-run accident. Just as Micah is about to turn him in, he learns that the victim is a member of a notorious crime family who would likely seek justice in the form of revenge. Just how many laws is Micah willing to break, and how far will he go in order to protect his son? Dark and morally complex, Your Honour is a gripping Israeli series with unforeseen plot twists that has already been optioned for a US remake.

Refreshments will be served

Israel | 2017
TV Series – Episodes 7-12
Hebrew with English subtitles
210 mins
Director: Ron Ninio

NOV. 11
SUNDAY @ 7:00 PM

Awards
Winner – Grand Prize – Best Series
– Series Mania

Sponsored by
Louise and Udi Oz

Consulate General of Israel
TICKET INFORMATION

HOW TO GET YOUR TICKETS
All films will be screened at Asia Society Hong Kong Center.

Tickets are available through our website www.hkjff.org

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS
Adults: HK$90
Students and seniors (over 60): HK$80

OPENING NIGHT TICKETS
Adults: HK$380
Students and seniors (over 60): HK$350
Opening Night tickets include post-screening party.

MACHER PASSES
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