

HONG KONG JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



14-29 NOVEMBER 2020

CELEBRATING
EST 21
1999
TWENTY-ONE YEARS

HONG KONG JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

One Robinson Place
70 Robinson Road
Mid-Levels, Hong Kong

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Email: info@hkjff.org
www.hkjff.org

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN

Dear Festival Supporters,

We hope you enjoy this new, more environmentally-friendly, version of our Program brochure.

The 21st edition of our Festival is the first time we are going 100% online. This is a mixed blessing. We will all miss the opportunity to gather together with fellow film lovers and enjoy the communal experience of the event. However, making sure that we continue bringing Jewish-themed features films, documentaries and shorts to the entire Hong Kong community in a safe-environment was our priority. Hosting a virtual event ensures the Festival will still go on despite the evolving pandemic environment in Hong Kong.

Our Donors and Supporters are central to the financial viability of the Festival and I would like to thank them even more this year.

Thanks as well to our dedicated Board members, to our Viewing Committee and all of you that have made the Festival possible again.

Enjoy the Festival and we look forward to seeing you in person at next year's Festival!

Eli Bitan
Chairman

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Board of Directors

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A very big thank you to Sharon Cooper, Webmaster Extraordinaire and Orli Maskalchi for her design expertise. Major thanks to Ana Lau at Green Pagoda Press and Josh Kahan, our very professional Trailer Editor! Thank you to Shani Brownstein, Festival Producer.

We thank our sponsors and participating organizations for their generous support.

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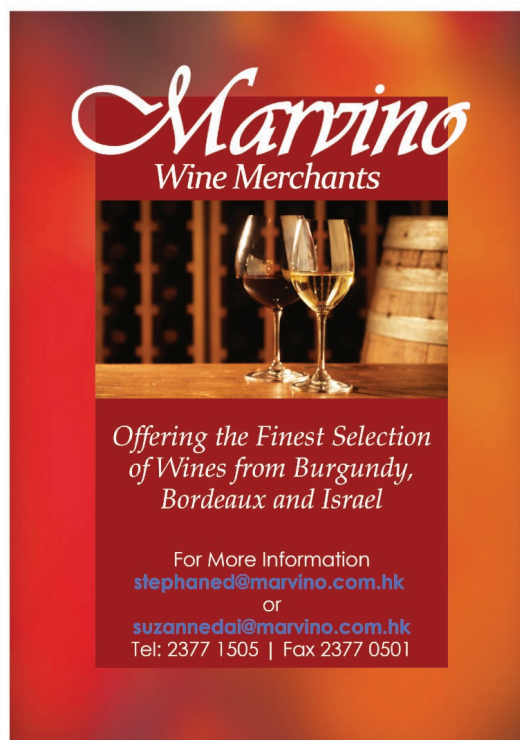


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Wishing continued success to the 21st edition of the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival.

Robert L. Meyer

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

We are the first international law firm dedicated to the business, personal and philanthropic interests of successful people, their businesses, their families and their advisors.



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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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FILMS RELEASE SCHEDULE

All films, except our opening night film *Crescendo*, are available on demand from the date of release until November 29, 2020 midnight HKT via our website:

www.hkjff.org



Sunday 15th November	An Officer and a Spy (J'Accuse) The Keeper Shorts A
Monday 16th November	Chichinette The Art of Waiting
Tuesday 17th November	The Church Born in Jerusalem and Still Alive
Wednesday 18th November	The Albanian Code Black Mercedes
Thursday 19th November	Bukra Fil Mish-Mish Golda
Friday 20th November	Angelica Holy Silence
Saturday 21st November	Golden Voices The Day After I am Gone Aulcie
Sunday 22nd November	Picture of His Life The Revolt of Job Shorts B

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At AIA we make a promise. We are going to help people live Healthier, Longer, Better Lives. This is our purpose and sits at the heart of everything we're about and everything we do.



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STREAMING INFORMATION

All our films are available only via our streaming platform on our website www.hkjff.org. Please register on the platform before November 10, 2020 and receive complimentary access to one film of your choice (except for the opening night film, *Crescendo*).

Streaming costs

Single film	HK\$80
Bundle of any 6 films (your choice)	HK\$240
All films (Macher Pass)	HK\$480

Please note that all bundled films must be viewed at the same IP location. Films can be viewed on demand from the release date until the end of the Festival on November 29, 2020. They can be viewed multiple times and on different devices, as long as it is at the same IP address. For more information on our streaming platform, please visit www.hkjff.org.

HONG KONG JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

2020

OPENING NIGHT LIVE STREAMING

Crescendo

14 NOV / SATURDAY @ 8:00 PM

Germany | 2019 | 102 mins | Drama, Music
German, Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles
Director: Dror Zahavi



When world-famous conductor Eduard Spork accepts the job to create an Israeli-Palestinian youth orchestra for a performance to coincide with peace negotiations, he is drawn into a storm of discord that seems unresolvable. The two factions of young musicians have grown up in a state of conflict, with fear governing their perceptions of each other. With only three weeks of rehearsal, Spork's essential task becomes more interpersonal than musical: can the children of conflict come together in harmony? Does music have the strength to build bridges despite the obstacles against all odds?

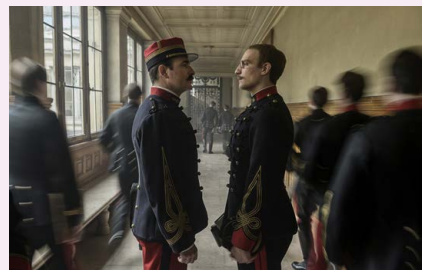
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An Officer and a Spy (l'Accuse)

On demand from 15 NOV / SUNDAY

France, Italy | 2019 | Drama, History, Thriller
French with English subtitles | 132 mins
Director: Roman Polanski



An Officer and a Spy is controversial and award-winning director Roman Polanski's take on the Dreyfus Affair, the political scandal that divided France, and a notable example of miscarriage of justice and anti-semitism. A promising young French Captain Alfred Dreyfus is wrongfully convicted of treason for allegedly spying for the Germans, and sentenced to life imprisonment at Devil's Island. Georges Picquart, head of the military counter-intelligence unit, discovers that secrets are still being handed over to the Germans, and is drawn into a web of corruption and deceit that endangers his life and his honour.

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The Keeper

On demand from 15 NOV / SUNDAY

UK, Germany | 2018 | Biography, Drama,
Romance | English, German with English subtitles
120 mins | Director: Marcus H. Rosenmueller



While visiting a PoW camp near Manchester at the end of WWII, Margaret and her father, the manager of the local football team, notice a young German soldier Bert Trautmann. Margaret's father is so taken by Bert's prowess as a goal-keeper that he gets him out of the camp to play for his team. While Margaret's and Bert's love blossoms despite local hostility, Bert's heroics in goal are noticed by Manchester City. His signing causes outrage to thousands of fans, many of them Jewish. But Bert and Margaret receive support from an unexpected direction: Rabbi Alexander Altmann, who fled the Nazis.

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Chichinette

On demand from 16 NOV / MONDAY

Germany, France | 2019 | Documentary,
Biography | English, French with English subtitles
86 mins | Director: Nicola Alice Hens



This captivating documentary tells the story of Marthe Cohn, a courageous French-Jewish woman who became a spy in Nazi Germany. It is only now, at the age of 98, that Cohn can talk freely about her experiences. Known at the time as Chichinette, she was recruited as a young woman by the French army and sent to Germany to gather intelligence. Cohn, at a diminutive four and a half feet tall, may not look like much of a threat, but her amazing bravery and ingenuity contributed to the ultimate defeat of the Nazis.

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The Art of Waiting

On demand from 16 NOV / MONDAY

Israel | 2019 | Comedy, Drama
Hebrew with English subtitles | 91 mins
Director: Erez Tadmor



Liran and Tali, a couple in their thirties, dream of having a child, but are told that they will have to undergo fertility treatments. To parent a child, they will have to embark on a long journey, full of hardships, physical and mental difficulties, family pressures, and of course, the challenge it poses to the couple's relationship.

Warning: Nudity, sexual content

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The Church

On demand from 17 NOV / TUESDAY

Israel, Germany | 2020 | Documentary
English, Arabic, Hebrew with English subtitles
70 mins | Director: Anat Tel



The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, the most sacred Christian site, is shared by six dominations fighting each other for every square metre. Two Muslim families, guardians of the entrance key to the church, argue over who is the true key custodian. Jonny, an Israeli police liaison officer, is charged with trying to preserve the longstanding but fragile status quo. *The Church* is a fascinating documentary which portrays complex, modern struggles taking place at one of Jerusalem's most ancient pilgrimage sites.

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Born In Jerusalem and Still Alive

On demand from 17 NOV / TUESDAY

Israel | 2020 | Comedy, Drama, Romance
Hebrew, English with English subtitles | 83 mins
Directors: Yossi Atia, David Ofek



In this dark and quirky romantic comedy, loveless Ronen finds an unusual form of emotional healing from his anxiety - giving free tours of famous terror attack sites along Jerusalem's Jaffa Road. Everything changes when he meets the high-spirited Asia, an Israeli student living in Barcelona with a passion for life. Falling in love, Ronen must choose whether to wallow in the ghosts of his past or to embrace the prospect of a romantic future.

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The Albanian Code

On demand from 18 NOV / WEDNESDAY

Israel | 2020 | Documentary | Hebrew, Italian,
English, Albanian with English subtitles | 35 mins
Director: Yael Katzir



Using unique archival footage, *The Albanian Code* unveils the unknown story of thousands of Jewish refugees who were rescued by the Muslim-majority country of Albania during World War II. Ennie Altaratz-Francis, who was saved escaping from Yugoslavia, decides to go to Albania to thank whoever she can. Her personal voyage, just one of many, reveals how an entire nation of Albanians, both office-holders and ordinary people, were bound by their moral code. An uplifting film that carries a universal message of gratitude for human values.

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Black Mercedes

On demand from 18 NOV / WEDNESDAY

Poland | 2019 | Crime, War
Polish, German with English subtitles | 110 mins
Director: Janusz Majewski



In this gripping crime thriller set in Nazi-occupied Warsaw, a beautiful young woman's murder leads a Polish police detective into a shadowy underworld of sex and intrigue. When Aneta, wife of a prominent attorney, is found with a knife in her back, chief inspector Rafal Król is on the case. He soon uncovers her husband's mysterious connections to a high-ranking SS officer, calling her identity into doubt. As peril increases, Król must race against time to nab the killer before he strikes again. Janusz Majewski adapts his own novel for the big screen in this film noir layered with hidden identities and startling twists and turns.

Warning: Nudity, sexual content

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Bukra Fil Mish-Mish

On demand from 19 NOV / THURSDAY

France | 2019 | Documentary
French with English subtitles | 73 mins
Director: Tal Michael



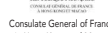
In a basement near Paris a treasure-trove of Egyptian animated films has been found. The films show the work of the Arab world's pioneers in this genre, the Frenkel brothers. These three exceptional, young, Jewish film-makers were the creators of Mishmish Effendi, the Mickey Mouse of the entire region, who disappeared from Egyptian screens when the State of Israel was created. Through their animated images, we uncover the history of the Frenkel family, a story marked by exile and trauma that is still relevant today.

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Golda

On demand from 19 NOV / THURSDAY

Israel, Germany | 2019 | Documentary
Hebrew with English subtitles | 88 mins
Directors: Sagi Bornstein, Udi Nir



Shortly before her passing, legendary Prime Minister Golda Meir was interviewed for Israeli television. After shooting ended, the cameras kept rolling, recording an intimate talk with the first and only woman ever to rule Israel. Speaking freely, Golda pleaded her case for five turbulent years in office that secured her place in history, albeit at a high personal cost. Based on unseen testimonies and rare archival footage, this is the dramatic story of Meir's premiership - from her surprising rise to power and iconic international stature as "Queen of the Jewish people", to her tragic and lonely demise.

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Angelica

On demand from 20 NOV / FRIDAY

Israel | 2019 | Documentary | Hebrew with English
subtitles | 75 mins | Director: Dan Peer



This Israeli documentary focuses on the tragic relationship between the father of Israeli art, Boris Schatz, and his secret daughter Angelica. Schatz's legacy includes two of Israel's most important cultural institutions, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, and Bezalel Academy for Art and Design, along with an endless collection of seminal works of art. Yet another chapter of his biography seemed to have disappeared-the kidnapping of Angelica by her mother Genia, who had fallen in love with one of Boris' students. For many years it was believed that father and daughter ceased to be in touch when Genia and Boris divorced, but the discovery of a chain of letters along with a roll of paintings in an attic, send the film's director, Angelica's great-grandson, to investigate Boris and Angelica's tragic relationship.

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Holy Silence

On demand from 20 NOV / FRIDAY

USA, Israel | 2020 | Documentary | English
72 mins | Director: Steven Pressman



This revealing documentary deals with the controversial topic of the Vatican's actions (and inactions) throughout the Holocaust and during the years leading up to it. The film is also focused on a variety of American officials - priests, diplomats and others - who played key behind-the-scenes roles in their efforts to influence the Vatican's response to the rise of Nazi Germany, and the unfolding horrors of the Final Solution.

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Golden Voices

On demand from 21 NOV / SATURDAY

Israel | 2019 | Comedy, Drama, Romance
Russian, Hebrew with English subtitles | 88 mins
Director: Evgeny Ruman



Meet Victor and Raya Frenkel, former darlings of the Soviet dubbing industry, as they face the challenges of immigrating to Israel after the fall of the USSR. Adjusting to a new language and environment later in life, the Frenkels attempt to make use of their unique talents in a country where they are not in high demand, with absurd, amusing, unexpected and painful results.

Warning: Mature content

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The Day After I am Gone

On demand from 21 NOV / SATURDAY

Israel, France | 2019 | Drama
Hebrew with English subtitles | 95 mins
Director: Nimrod Eldar



Yoram, a 50-year-old veterinarian living in Tel Aviv, is forced to re-examine his relationship with his adolescent daughter Roni after she wishes to end her life. He decides to take her on a journey to visit her mother's family, resulting in a process of self and mutual discovery in a primordial desert land enveloping the Dead Sea.

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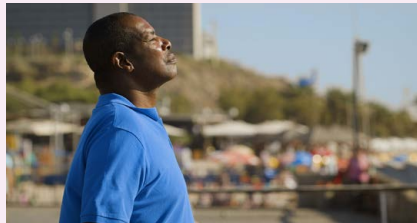
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Aulcie

On demand from 21 NOV / SATURDAY

USA, Israel | 2020 | Documentary, Sport
English, Hebrew with English subtitles | 75 mins
Director: Dani Menkin



This is the inspiring story of Aulcie Perry, a basketball legend who led Maccabi Tel Aviv to an against the odds win in the European Championship. Spotted by a scout for Maccabi Tel Aviv in the summer of 1976 while playing at the Rucker courts in Harlem, Perry was quickly signed to play for the fledgling team. Converting to Judaism, Aulcie adopted the Hebrew name Elisha Ben Avraham, and became an Israeli citizen. This is the moving story of a remarkable athlete who captured the spirit of a nation and put Israel on the map.

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Picture of His Life

On demand from 22 NOV / SUNDAY

Israel, USA, Canada | 2019 | Documentary
English, Hebrew, Inuktitut with English subtitles
72 mins | Directors: Dani Menkin, Yonatan Nir



World renowned wildlife photographer Amos Nachoum has one final photographic dream remaining - to photograph a Polar Bear underwater, while swimming alongside it. This breathtaking documentary follows Amos in the Canadian Arctic as he prepares for his ultimate challenge. As the journey unfolds, so does an intimate and painful story of dedication, sacrifice and personal redemption.

Sponsored by **Dr. Rafael Aharoni**

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The Revolt of Job

On demand from 22 NOV / SUNDAY

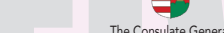
Hungary | 1983 | Drama
Hungarian with English subtitles | 98 mins
Directors: Imre Gyöngyössi, Barna Kabay



Hungary, 1943. An elderly Jewish couple, Job and Roza, have no descendants to pass their heritage or wealth on to so they adopt a Christian orphan who quickly grows to love the kind and patient pair. From here an amazing relationship begins, but the bond between father and son is tested when German troops march into their tranquil town.

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On demand from 15 NOV / SUNDAY - SHORTS A



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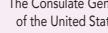
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in Hong Kong**



A1: Butterflies in Berlin - Diary of a Soul Split in Two

Italy, Germany | 2019
Animation, Short, Biography | English | 30 mins
Director: Monica Manganeli

Alex moves to Weimar Republic Berlin in 1933. Looking for his place in the world and discovering his sexual identity, he becomes the first out-of-surgery transsexual in history, during the rise of National-Socialism.

A2: Tzofar

Israel | 2018 | Short, Drama
Hebrew with English subtitles | 15 mins
Director: Nitzan Ron

11am on Israel's Memorial Day, a siren sounds throughout the country to commemorate the fallen. But for Guy, who survived the battlefield, the sound is a constant reminder of the trauma that he is trying to leave behind.

A3: Inner Flame

Israel | 2018 | Short, Drama
Hebrew with English subtitles | 18 mins
Director: Vardit Bilu

Gali is a deaf dancer who dreams of a successful career joining a professional and well-regarded troupe. Filled with excitement, hope and fear, she arrives at the tryouts and chooses to conceal her deafness from the examiners and the other dancers. Will Gali be able to achieve her dream?

On demand from 22 NOV / SUNDAY - SHORTS B



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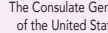
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B1: The Fiddle

Israel | 2018 | Animation, Short
English, Yiddish with English subtitles | 9 mins
Director: Asher Schwartz

This animated short is based on Sholem Aleichem's short story "The Fiddle", that tells the story of Sholom, the boy that was destined to become the fiddler on the roof.

B2: Write Me

USA | 2020 | Short Drama | English | 8 mins
Director: Pearl Gluck

Write Me follows an older woman who joins other survivors in reclaiming the histories tattooed on their bodies. The film is adapted from and driven by an award-winning poem, *After Auschwitz*, written by Deborah Kahan Kolb.

B3: Noa

Israel | 2019 | Drama, Short | Hebrew with English
subtitles | 25 mins | Director: Dekel Nitzan

Noa is a lonely single mother looking for a job. She hopes Yair, a family man and the vice president of a successful company, will help. But sometimes interests can turn into feelings.

B4: To Be a Cooperman

Israel | 2019 | Short, Action, Comedy
Hebrew with English subtitles | 17 mins
Director: Benny Snyder

Aaron, the most strait-laced police officer, is forced to turn a blind eye to the law with disastrous consequences.

A4: The Book of Ruth

USA | 2020 | Short, Drama | English | 14 mins
Director: Becca Roth

Asian Premiere. A Passover story with a difference. At a visit to the family matriarch on the night of Seder, Lizzy confronts her grandmother Ruth about something she'd suspected for years.

A5: Pop 30

Israel | 2019 | Short, Drama
Hebrew with English subtitles | 18 mins
Director: Shira Billig

Mika's boyfriend Nati puts an end to the relationship when Mika proposes marriage. Mika moves back home and becomes addicted to her childhood Atari video game. But going back to the past doesn't heal Mika's heartache. She will have to find another way of moving on.

A6: The Bra Mitzvah

USA | 2020 | Short, Comedy | English | 9 mins
Director: Stacy Jill Calvert

The Bra Mitzvah is a comedic short about growing into adulthood, one bra at a time.

Supported by **Tara & Joe Diestel**

B5: You're Invited

USA | 2019 | Short, Drama | English | 14 mins
Director: Andrew Kaplan

After hearing that an elderly Holocaust survivor died alone with no one to come to her funeral, a college student posts a Facebook invitation for others to attend.

B6: Upper Lip

Israel | 2018 | Short, Comedy, Drama
Hebrew with English subtitles
9 mins | Director: Shiri Cohen

A bittersweet, coming of age tale of a 12-year-old Israeli girl, who goes to the beauty salon for the first time to get her eyebrows done.