# **JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**

2021

### **Neighbours**

#### OPENING FILM 13 NOVEMBER / SATURDAY @ 7:30 PM at Golden Scene Cinema

Switzerland | 2021 | Feature, Drama | Kurdish, Arabic, Hebrew with English and Chinese subtitles | 124 mins Director: Mano Khali



In 1982, Sero, a young Kurdish boy from a Syrian border village, attends school for the first time. His new teacher from Damascus forbids use of the Kurdish language and preaches hate of the Zionist enemy, the Jews. This confuses Sero as his long-time neighbours are a lovable Jewish family. As Sero becomes involved in dangerous pranks with his friends and dreams of having a television, he experiences the effect of the violence and nationalism surrounding him. Beautifully shot and told with gentle humour and satire, 'Neighbours' explores the tyranny of dictatorship through a child's eyes. How much friendship and love is possible in times of repression and brutality?

1982 年,敘利亞邊境村莊的男孩 Sero 第一次上學。 來自大馬士革的新老師禁止學生使用庫爾德語言,並宣 揚對猶太人的仇恨。這令 Sero 十分困惑,因為他的鄰 居是一個友善的猶太家庭。當 Sero 與他的朋友開始接 觸危險的惡作劇,並夢想擁有一台電視時,他逐漸擴闊 對社會的認識,並慢慢地體驗到圍繞著他的暴力和民族 主義。《鄰居》通過孩子的角度以及溫和的幽默和諷 刺探索獨裁政體。處於壓抑和殘酷的時代,友誼和愛情

Nominated for Best Film at the 2021 Shanghai International Film Festival Supported by

Robert L. Meyer



# A Call To Spy

14 NOVEMBER / SUNDAY @ 1:00PM USA | 2019 | Feature, History, Drama | English 123 mins





Early in World War Two, Churchill orders his new secret spy agency - The Special Operations Executive - to recruit and train women as spies to aid Britain's war effort. Their mission: to conduct sabotage and build a resistance. 'Spymistress' Vera Atkins, a Jewish Romanian immigrant, recruits two unexpected candidates, Virginia Hall, an ambitious American with a wooden leg, and Noor Inayat Khan, a Muslim pacifist. Together, these women help to undermine the Nazi regime in France, leaving an unmistakable legacy in their wake.

Judy & Michael Green



# Til Kingdom Come

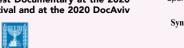
14 NOVEMBER / SUNDAY @ 5:15PM Israel, UK, Norway | 2020 | Documentary

English, Arabic, Hebrew with English subtitles 76 mins



This revealing documentary traces the unusual relationship between Evangelical Christianity and the Jewish State. Millions of American Evangelicals are praying for the State of Israel. Among them are the Binghams, a dynasty of Kentucky pastors, and their Evangelical congregants, who live in an impoverished coalmining town. The film exposes a jarring backstory of the Trump and Netanyahu administrations, where financial, political and messianic motives intersect with an apocalyptic worldview that is insistently reshaping American foreign policy toward Israel and the Middle-East.

Nominated for Best Documentary at the 2020 Chicago Film Festival and at the 2020 DocAviv Film Festival



# Love It Was Not

#### 14 NOVEMBER / SUNDAY @ 6:45PM

Israel, Austria | 2020 | Documentary, Holocaust English, Hebrew, German with English subtitles Director: Maya Sarfaty



Flamboyant and in the prime of her life, Helena Citron is taken to Auschwitz as a young woman and finds unlikely solace under the protection of Franz Wunsch, a high-ranking SS officer who falls in love with her and her magnetic singing voice. Risking certain execution if caught, their forbidden relationship went on until her liberation in 1945. When a letter arrives thirty years later rom Wunsch's wife, begging Helena to testify on Wunsch's behalf, she is faced with an impossible decision. Will she help the man who brutalised so many lives, but saved hers?

Winner of Best Israeli Film at the 2020 DocAviv





## Powder Keg

#### 14 NOVEMBER / SUNDAY @ 8:30PM

Denmark | 2020 | Drama Danish with English subtitles | 106 mins Director: Ole Christian Madsen



The year is 2015. In icy cold Europe, people are slowly moving on after the shocking terrorist attack on Charlie Hebdo. In Copenhagen the newly released criminal Omar has his own agenda. The lives of four strangers intersect tragically in this movie adaptation of the February terrorist attacks that rocked Copenhagen. All too late they realize that life can change in an instant, leaving only one of them left to tell the story about the tragic attack that forever changed the

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# The Auschwitz Report

#### 15 NOVEMBER / MONDAY @ 7:00PM

Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland | 2021 | Drama, History, Holocaust | English, German with English subtitles | 94 mins



The Auschwitz Report follows Freddy and Valér, two Slovakian Jewish men on their agonizing attempt to escape the concentration camp. Each day they watch, count, and document the number of prisoners delivered to the camp, as well as the daily death toll, in order compile a detailed report about the systematic genocide they witness at the camp. Starving and injured, the brave pair escape and forge ahead to deliver their proof of rampant genocide to leaders of the Red Cross. However, with Nazi propaganda and international liaisons still in place, their allies are reluctant to believe their account. A harrowing film based on true events that will leave audiences forever changed.

The Ohel Leah Synagogue Charity Trust



### The UN Word

#### 15 NOVEMBER / MONDAY @ 8:45PM

Germany | 2020 | Drama, Comedy | German with English subtitles | 89 mins Director: Leo Khasin



After an altercation between an Iranian, a Palestinian and a Jewish student, the parents of the boys are called to the school to resolve the situation. Though full of good intentions their teacher inadvertently exposes her own misguided assumptions to hilarious effect, such as offering snacks decorated with Palestinian and Israeli flags. Written with a light touch, Director Leo Khasin takes on the weighty topic of anti-Semitism in German schools, in an attempt to explore the complexities of finding a common language in the fight against prejudice.

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### Lebanon: Borders of Blood

16 NOVEMBER / TUESDAY @ 7:00PM Israel, Germany | 2020 | Documentary | Hebrew,

French, English, Arabic with English subtitles Creators: Reinhardt Beetz, Duki Dror, Itai Landsberg



the jewel of the Middle East, has been engulfed by strife, chaos and bloodshed. his incisive documentary, Israeli director Duki Dror compares this small nation to an active volcano that explodes periodically, destabilizing everything in its path. Using graphic file footage and informative interviews with Lebanese Palestinians, Israelis and Americans, Dror draws a vivid portrait of a country in crisis. Caught up in the chaos are the Lebanese civilians. Consisting of different sects, religions, and ethnicities, the Lebanese people are now writing their own history, in a string of political assassinations,

massacres, and betrayals Sponsored by Anonymous Anonymous

Sublet

#### 16 NOVEMBER / TUESDAY @ 8:45PM

Israel, US | 2020 | Drama, Comedy, Romance, Hebrew, English with English subtitles | 89 mins Director: Evtan Fox



New York Times travel writer Michael sublets an apartment in Tel Aviv and meets Tomer, a younger film student who is renting it out in need of some extra money. The energy of the city and his relationship with Tomer gradually bring Michael back to life. Touching and at times sentimental, Sublet is both a love story to the vibrant city of Tel Aviv and an illuminating tale of both the simplicity and complexity of human

Winner of the Jury Prize for best Feature Film at the Atlanta Film Festival

Warning: Sexual content and nudity Sponsored by Anonymous



#### Yerusalem 17 NOVEMBER / WEDNESDAY @7:00PM

Israel | 2021 | Documentary | English, Hebrew, Amharic with English subtitles | 90 mins



This year marks 30 years since Operatio Solomon, the third mission to airlift Jews from Ethiopia to Israel. Yerusalem brings to life the story of a long, dramatic and tumultuous journey as the Jewish Ethiopian community, also know as "Beta-Israel", finally find their way back to the heart of the Jewish people after centuries Yerusalem" tells a moving and gripping story of heroic actions, daring covert operations and a powerful religious yearning passed down for countless generations.

Sponsored by Marvino



## The Vigil

#### 17 NOVEMBER / WEDNESDAY @8:45PM

USA | 2019 | Feature, Horror, Mystery, Thriller English, Yiddish, Hebrew with English subtitles Director: Keith Thomas



Set over the course of a single night in Brooklyn's Hasidic Borough Park neighborhood, The Vigil is a Jewish supernatural thriller steeped in ancient Jewish folklore. Yakov Ronen is a young man struggling to live outside of the Orthodox community. He reluctantly accepts an offer from his former rabbi to take on the responsibility of being an overnight "shomer," fulfilling the Jewish practice of watching over the body of a deceased person. With only the company of the recently departed and an ailing widow, he soon finds himself exposed to a terrifying spiritual entity inhabiting the house.

Sponsored by The Zion Family Supported by



#### Rose

#### 18 NOVEMBER/THURSDAY @7:00PM at Golden Scene Cinema

France | 2021 | Feature, Drama French with English subtitles | 102 mins Director: Aurélie Saada



When 78 year old Rose decides to re-establish a life for herself as an independent woman, after the death of her beloved husband, the equilibrium of her family is totally destabilised.



## A Radiant Girl (Une fille qui va bien)

18 NOVEMBER/THURSDAY @9:00PM at Golden Scene Cinema

France | 2021 | Feature, Drama, Historical | French with English subtitles | 98 mins Director: Sandrine Kiberlain



Paris summer 1942 Irène is Jewish and French, She is 19 and living a life of passions; her friendships her new love, her desire to be an actress. Irène is oblivious that her time is running out.



# **Outremont and the Hasidim**

Canada | 2019 | Documentary | English, French, Yiddish with English subtitles | 51 mins Director: Eric R. Scott



Some 7.000 "Hasidim" (ultra-Orthodox Jews) live in the affluent Montréal borough of Outremont. After settling there more than 70 years ago, the Hasidim are a rapidly growing minority group, representing a challenge for certain members of the local French-speaking Québécois. The Francophone elite fear the massive influx of this group, which according to some, refuses to integrate. This revealing documentary lifts the veil on the practices and traditions of the Hasidio community, while presenting their hopes, fears and expectations. Successfully avoiding clichés, the film conveys the perspectives of both sides in an effort to discover both what divides and unites

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# Jewish film festival

## Here We Are

#### 20 NOVEMBER / SATURDAY @8:15PM

Israel, Italy | 2020 | Feature, Drama | Hebrew with English subtitles | 92 mins Director: Nir Bergmar



Aharon and his autistic son Uri live together in peaceful harmony, away from the pressures and stigmas of the real world. However, as Uri grows up, his mother Tamara feels that he should be around his peers and learn to live more independently in an assisted-living facility. When the time comes to leave, Aharon decides to run away with his son, knowing that Uri is not ready for this separation. But is it in fact Aharon, who isn't ready? Packed with heart-wrenching emotion, this film is a bittersweet, life-affirming story about fatherly love and the difficulty of

Winner of Best Director, Actor and Screenplay at the 2020 Israeli Film Academy Awards

Withers 衛達仕

## Shiva Baby

#### 20 NOVEMBER / SATURDAY @10:00PM

US, Canada | 2020 | Comedy | English | 77 mins Director: Emma Seligman



Danielle is at a funeral service with her parents when she runs into both her ex-girlfriend, Maya, and her sugar daddy, Max. While enduring the usual questioning from relatives, Danielle attempts to negotiate with her over-involved mother, manage her interactions with Maya, and deal with her secret relationship with Max, who turns out to have extra secrets of his own. There is also the question of who has died...

Winner of the Best Feature Film at the 2020 Adelaide Film Festival

Warning: Sexual content

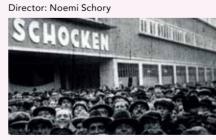
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## Schocken

## 21 NOVEMBER / SUNDAY @12:30PM

Israel, Germany | 2020 | Documentary, History English, Hebrew, German with English subtitles 75 mins



Before the name Schocken was associated with the renowned publishing house, Salman Schocken was the king of department stores in Germany. Prior to WWII, he owned 22 stores with 6,000 employees. After being stripped of his citizenship and losing his empire, the family immigrated to Palestine, where he founded a modern, Jewish publishing house and acquired the Haaretz newspaper. Struggling to integrate into Israeli society, he left the country in 1940 and died in 1959. Through the publishing house and Haaretz, Schocken's legacy survives

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### Dwelling in Travelling

#### 21 NOVEMBER / SUNDAY @1:55PM

India | 2020 | Documentary | English | 69 mins Director: Subha Das Mollick



In 1798, jeweller and trader Shalom Cohen arrived in Calcutta, India, paving the way for a diaspora Jewish community in the city. Baghdadi Jews traveled the sea routes from Basrah to Shanghai and settled in port cities along the way. Calcutta was one such centre for the Jewish population. This fascinating documentary explores the identity of a community that prospered in a country situated far from the persecution they had suffered across the Western

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#### Muranow

#### 21 NOVEMBER / SUNDAY @5:45PM

Israel | 2020 | Documentary | English, Hebrew, Polish with English subtitles | 70 mins Director: Chen Shelacl



The flourishing area of Muranow in Warsaw was once a place of hardship and death - it housed the Warsaw ghetto. Today, it is a spacious green neighbourhood built out from the rubble of the war. The Polish residents claim that Jewish ghosts live in Muranow and wander the streets they once lived in. Some believe the ghosts are literal while others regard them in metaphorical terms serving as a reminder of the life, culture and traditions of the Jewish people who are buried beneath the ground.

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# Resistance

# **CLOSING FILM**

#### 21 NOVEMBER / SUNDAY @7:30PM

United Kingdom, France, Germany, USA | 2020 Biography, Drama, History | English, German, French with English subtitles | 120 mins



Aspiring actor Marcel Mangel would rather perform in Strasbourg's cabaret clubs than chop meat like his father. However, when his cousin persuades him to help care for a group of rescued German orphans, his path changes. Marcel Mangel becomes Marcel Marceau as he joins the French Resistance and works with Boy Scouts to save the lives of hundreds of children. Starring Jesse Eisenberg and Clémence Poésy Resistance tells an incredibly inspiring story of courage - and the ability to laugh even amidst the unimaginable horrors of Nazi-occupied France.

Warning: Mature content, violence Sponsored by Sheri and Robert Dorfman

# 14 NOVEMBER / SUNDAY @ 3:15PM - SHORTS A

### The Tattooed Torah

USA | 2019 | Animated, Short | English | 21 mins

An animated film based on the beloved children's book "The Tattooed Torah" by Marvell Ginsburg that has been educating young children about the Holocaust for generations. A powerful resource for Holocaust education for children all over the world, this film narrated by Ed Asner recounts the true story of the rescue and restoration of a small Torah from Brno, Czechoslovakia, and teaches the Holocaust not only as a period of destruction but also as an opportunity for redemption.

### Moshe Sneh

Israel | 2020 | Short, Documentary | Hebrew with English subtitles | 14 mins Director: Amir Har-Gil

Moshe Sneh: Defense Minister, Chief of Staff inthe-making, and the man in command of bringing thousands of Holocaust survivors from Europe to Israel, in spite of British Mandate opposition. This film focuses on SS Exodus, a daring rescue operation on a vessel that became known as, the ship that launched a nation'

### The Ugly Swan

Israel | 2021 | Short | Hebrew with English subtitles | 12 mins

An ultra-Orthodox woman going out on a date is burdened with a terrible secret

#### Neurim

Israel | 2020 | Short, Drama | Hebrew with English subtitles | 31 mins Director: Shavlee Atary

After an injury, an awkward relationship develops between Or, a 30-year-old wheelchair-bound patient, and her new physiotherapist. The new breezes of desire invigorate Or's daily rehabilitation routine at her mother's house

### Only Bibi

Israel | 2020 | Short | Hebrew with English subtitles | 14 mins Director: Rani Avidan



on a public bus stop and decides to call city services. When they fail to respond, he decides

### The Inspection

France | 2021 | Short, Drama | French with English subtitles | 16 mins

Julia, a history teacher in a quiet high school,

Argentina | 2020 | Short, Documentary, History Spanish with English subtitles | 18 mins Director: Alfonso Gastiaburo

Argentina 1939. While the World Chess Championship was taking place, breaking news shocked the participants: Germany had invaded Poland and World War II had erupted. Many great chess masters were stranded away from their home countries and began to organize exhibitions in order to make their living. One of these masters decided to search for something

France, Israel | 2019 | Short, Drama | Hebrew with English subtitles | 15 mins

tragedy. He accepts a job from the Jerusalen peliever and lead him to discover how the path to forgiveness can bring peace.

Space Torah

25 mins Director: Rob Coope



Audience Award for Best Short Film at the 2021 Atlanta Jewish Film Festival

# **Paradise**

Israel | 2021 | Short, Drama | Arabic, Hebrew with English subtitles | 32 mins

After years of living in Berlin, young Palestinian is forced to reflect on his true identity.

Directors: Caroline Brami, Frédéric Bas

faces a school inspector. He wants to talk to her - but what about, exactly? Her heated debates with the principal? The freedom she takes with the school curriculum? Or is it the way she teaches the Holocaust?

## 40 Tableros

# 21 NOVEMBER / SUNDAY @ 3:20PM - SHORTS B

**Letters to God** 

Director: Yves Cohen Since his daughter's death, Moshe lives alone, rejecting his wife whom he blames for the post office, unaware that it is for a very special division: The Department of Letters to God Through these letters, Moshe faces humanity's most private and sometimes fanciful wishes. A series of strange events will transform this non-

USA | 2020 | Short, Documentary | English



NASA's first Jewish male astronaut, Dr Jeffrey Hoffman, brought the first Torah into space. This short explores the series of events leading up to that moment as well as the enduring meaning of Dr. Hoffman's journey for Jews and non-Jews all over the world.

Director: Asaf Saban

Ali lands in Israel for a home visit. Following a cold welcome at the airport, he decides to seek some peace and quiet on a short vacation in the Sinai Desert. When a group of young Israeli Jewish tourists mistakes him for one of them, Ali

# Caught in the Web

Israel | 2021 | Short, Documentary | Hebrew with English subtitles | 27 mins



While Ultra-Orthodox Rabbis were able to successfully ban television and national Radio from their communities, they are losing the battle against the digital world. This revealing documentary analyzes how online culture has been gradually adopted by many factions of the Haredi community - fundamentally changing the fabric of Ultra-Orthodox society with surprising

## White Eye

Israel | 2019 | Documentary, Short | Hebrew with English subtitles | 21 mins Director: Tomer Shushan



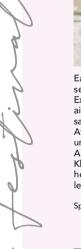
tem locked up outside a building. As he tries to find a way to take it back, the new owner Yunes arrives. Before they know it, the police have

precious white bicycle. Omer spots the stolen

Nominated for Best Live Action Short Film at the 2021 Academy Awards









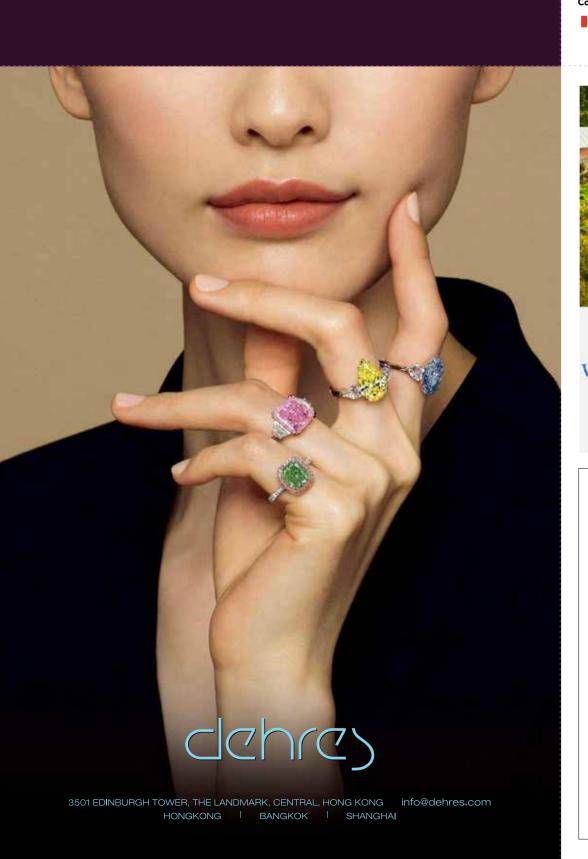








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#### **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Dear Friends,

Films have the magical ability to take us away from reality.

This past year presented us with many obstacles to overcome in a difficult pandemic environment, which resulted in an innovative new Festival format streaming films on-line. We are thrilled to announce we are back in the movie theatres again for our 22nd edition. During this tough time, film makers and the movie industry were able to create both informative and entertaining films for viewers of all ages, and once again it is our pleasure and honour to be able to bring the magic of these features, documentaries and short films to our audiences in Hong Kong.

We are excited to partner with the Hong Kong French Film Festival celebrating their 50th edition and will be screening two French films at a new location: the Golden Scene Cinema in Kennedy Town. Our opening night film 'Neighbours' will also be shown there, followed by an after party at the LKF Tower, while the rest of our programme will be held at our cultural home: The Asia Society Hong Kong Center.

I would like to thank all of our Sponsors, our Supporters, our Board Members, our Viewing Committee, and all of the volunteers who make this Festival possible.

Looking forward to sharing another exciting Festival with all of you.

Eli Bitan

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Board of Directors

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#### Student Interns

Hannah Davidson, Jeremy Chan, and Asher Berman

A very big thank you to Sharon Cooper, Webmaster Extraordinaire. Huge thanks to Ana Lau at Green Pagoda Press and Josh Kahan, our very professional Trailer Editor!

Thank you to Shani Brownstein, Festival Producer.

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Special thanks to the Asia Society, Golden Scene Cinema, the LKF Group and Neill Morgan, Daniel Tse and

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

#### Valued Partners

























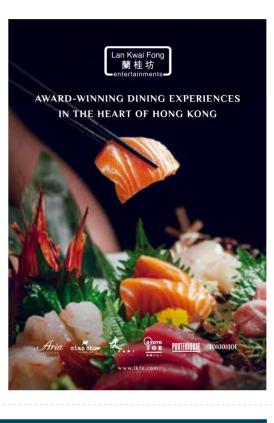
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Kindford congratulates the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival on its 22<sup>nd</sup> season

Wishing continued success to the 22nd edition of the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival.

Robert L. Meyer

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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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### **TICKETING INFORMATION**

**Individual Ticket:** HK\$100

Robert L. Meyer

(HK\$50,000+)

Richard Elman

**GOLD AWARD WINNER** 

Sheri and Robert Dorfman

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Anonymous

Macher Pass: HK\$1,500 (Allows access to all Festival screenings)

**Opening Night** (includes entry to post-screening party):

Adults: HK\$380, Students: HK\$280

Neighbours, Rose, and A Radiant Girl will take place at Golden Scene Cinema, 2 Catchick Street, Kennedy Town, Hong Kong.

All other films will be screened at Asia Society Hong Kong Center,

9 Justice Drive, Admiralty, Hong Kong.

# FILMS SCHEDULE

### Visit www.hkjff.org to book tickets

Saturday 13 November

7:30 PM **OPENING NIGHT** 

Neighbours at Golden Scene Cinema

#### **Sunday 14 November**

1:00 PM A Call to Spy 3:15 PM Shorts A 5:15 PM Til Kingdom Come

6:45 PM Love It Was Not 8:30 PM Powder Keg

Monday 15 November

7:00 PM The Auschwitz Report 8:45 PM The UN-Word

**Tuesday 16 November** 

7:00 PM Lebanon-Borders of Blood 8:45 PM Sublet

Wednesday 17 November 7:00 PM Yerusalem

The Vigil Thursday 18 November Rose at Golden Scene Cinema

**Golden Scene Cinema** 

A Radiant Girl (Une fille qui va bien) at

Saturday 20 November

9:00 PM

7:10 PM Outremont and the Hasidim 8:15 PM Here We Are

10:00 PM Sunday 21 November

12:30 PM Shocken

1:55 PM **Dwelling in Traveling** 3:20 PM Shorts B

5:45 PM Muranow Resistance 7:30 PM

### HONG KONG JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Shiva Baby

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