

2000

The Washington

11th

Jewish Film Festival

www.wjff.org

An exhibition of

International Cinema

Presented by The District of Columbia
Jewish Community Center's Morris Cafritz Center
for the Arts. Co-sponsored by the Embassy of
Israel and *Washington Jewish Week*.



The Lincoln Theatre
1215 U Street, NW

The Cecile Goldman Theater
16th and Q Streets, NW

Loews Cineplex Foundry Theatre
1055 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW

Goethe-Institut Washington
814 Seventh Street, NW

The National Gallery of Art
East Wing Building, 4th Street
and Constitution Avenue, NW

Visions Cinema Bistro Lounge
1927 Florida Avenue, NW

November 30 - December 10, 2000

Quick Glance Calendar

Thursday, November 30

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Friday, December 1

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Cock Fight			
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Geographie			
Madame Jacques sur la Croisette			
The Metamorphosis of Mr. Samsa			
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Under Control			
Zummel			

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Cover Images From top left to right: *Divided We Fall*, *Would I Lie To You?*, *The Sky Falls*.
From bottom left to right: *All My Loved Ones*.



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A Message from The Director

"Important, provocative work is being done."



11th

The Washington

Jewish Film Festival

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OPENING NIGHT FILM

The Sky Falls

Italy, 2000, 35mm,
95 minutes

Italian with English subtitles

Directors: Andrea Frazzi and Antonio Frazzi

Thursday, Nov 30, 7 pm

The Lincoln Theatre - Wine Reception to follow at the Lincoln Theatre.

Film and Reception \$20.

Valet parking \$5. No credit cards accepted at the door.

Based on Lorenza Mazzetti's autobiographical novel, *The Sky Falls* is a touching and poetic family saga set against the stunning backdrop of Tuscany, Italy. In the summer of 1943, two young orphaned girls are taken to Tuscany to stay with their aunt (Isabella Rossellini) and uncle (Jeroen Krabbé). After the initial moments of awkwardness, the girls, Penny (played by award-winning actress Veronica Niccolai) and Baby, find a safe place in the arms and the lives of their new guardians. That is, until the violence of the war, up till that moment just a remote echo, falls on this family with all its cruelty and pointless ferocity. Dutch actor Jeroen Krabbé shines in his role as a German Jewish intellectual, and cousin to Albert Einstein. With measured sensitivity, Isabella Rossellini brings grace and warmth to her role.

Co-sponsored by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura and The Embassy of Italy

Welcoming Remarks:

Martha Gross, President, DCJCC

Mayor Anthony A. Williams, Washington, DC

Aviva Raz-Shechter, Counselor, Public and Cultural Affairs, Embassy of Israel

Luigi Maccotta, First Counselor and Cultural Counselor, Embassy of Italy

Special Guests:

Andrea Frazzi, Director

Antonio Frazzi, Director



CLOSING NIGHT FILM



Divided We Fall

Czech Republic, 2000, 35mm,
117 minutes

Czech with English subtitles

Director: Jan Hrebejk

Sunday, Dec 10, 7 pm

The Lincoln Theatre - Embassy Reception to follow at the Embassy of the Czech Republic - 3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, off Tilden Street.

Film and Embassy Reception \$15 (Must be purchased in advance).

Film only \$10.

Valet parking at The Lincoln Theatre \$5.



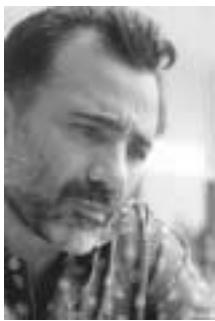
Truly a screen gem that must not be missed, *Divided We Fall* is a Czech dark comedy ably directed by Jan Hrebejk (*Cozy Dens*). In a small Czech village during World War II, a childless couple, Josef and Marie Cizek (played by award-winning actor Boleslav Polívka and Anna Siskova), hides their former neighbor, a young Jewish man who has managed to escape from the death camps but has lost his entire family. Their other neighbor, now an enthusiastic Nazi collaborator, drops by at odd hours and begins to suspect. The collaborator's German boss, shattered by the death of his young sons in the war, announces that he is moving into the couple's spare room, and to keep him out his wife blurts out she is pregnant and needs it for a nursery. Suddenly, the barren couple needs to somehow become pregnant in a hurry. *Divided We Fall* is a remarkable mixture of comedic and dramatic elements a la *Life Is Beautiful* with some of the best production values yet seen in a Czech film. (Film note by Eddie Cockrell)

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of the Czech Republic

Welcoming Remarks:

Marcel Sauer, Cultural Attaché, Embassy of the Czech Republic





Aaron Cohen's Debt

Aaron Cohen's Debt

Israel, 1999, Video, 96 minutes Hebrew with English subtitles Director: Amalia Margolin **Wednesday, Dec 6, 9:00 pm** Cecile Goldman Theater

While celebrating his birthday party with friends and family, Aaron Cohen is suddenly hauled off by the police on the grounds that he owes child support. Despite his frail health and his daughter's frantic attempts to bail him out, Aaron is forced to spend the night behind bars. Indifferent guards, an over-crowded cell and an infected ulcer thrust Aaron into a Kafkaesque nightmare with tragic consequences. Starring renowned Israeli actor Moshe Ivgi (*Cup Final, Lovesick On Nana Street*), Aaron Cohen's Debt is a powerful, fact-based, Israeli TV drama about police brutality and bureaucratic ineptness.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel

Welcoming Remarks:
Aviva Raz-Shechter, Counselor, Public & Cultural Affairs, Embassy of Israel

Special Guest:
Alon Bar, Screenwriter

After the Truth

Germany, 1999, 35mm, 128 minutes German with English subtitles Director: Roland Suso Richter **Thursday, Dec 7, 6:00 pm** Cecile Goldman Theater

In the chilling drama *After the Truth*, the film delivers Josef Mengele to present-day Berlin, where he is forced to stand trial for the atrocities which afforded him the title "Auschwitz's Angel of Death." Who better to defend Dr. Mengele (played by Goetz George) than the man who has been obsessively writing his biography - Peter Rohm (played by Kai Wiesinger)? Mengele targets Rohm for his defense, and persuades him to take his case by isolating him and bombarding him with mind games, all the while, using psychologically twisted rhetoric to ensnare him. The hard, cold Mengele then sits before the Berlin court in a specially constructed glass box, facing the incensed courtroom, while maintaining his callous presence.



After the Truth

Co-sponsored by the Goethe-Institut Washington

Welcoming Remarks:
Werner Ott, Director, Goethe-Institut Washington

Special Guests:
Roland Suso Richter, Director
Marc Fisher, *The Washington Post* Columnist, former Berlin Bureau Chief and author of "After the Wall: Germany, the Germans and the Burdens of History."

All My Loved Ones

Czech Republic/Germany/Poland/Slovakia, 1999, 35mm, 92 minutes Czech with English subtitles Director: Matej Minac **Saturday, Dec 2, 8:00 pm** Loews Cineplex Foundry Theatre: on two screens



All My Loved Ones

Director Matej Minac's visually stunning film, *All My Loved Ones*, (starring Agnieszka Wagner, Krzysztof Kolberger, Josef Abraham and Jiri Bartoska) was inspired by the real life experiences of English stockbroker Nicholas Winton, who saved nearly seven-hundred Czech Jewish children in 1939. Through a dazzling musical score (written by Janusz Stoklosa), humor, and the innocence of two young children, this film focuses on the Silberstein family, a loving, extended Jewish family as they face the rapids and doldrums of life in Europe.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of the Czech Republic, Embassy of Slovakia, Embassy of Poland and Goethe-Institut Washington

Welcoming Remarks:
Marcel Sauer, Cultural Attaché, Embassy of the Czech Republic

Special Guest:
Matej Minac, Director

TRANSITIONS IN TRADITIONS

American Lives: Jewish Stories

USA, 2000, Video, 47 minutes English

Director: Michelle Brafman-Helf

Sunday, Dec 10, 2:45 pm
Cecile Goldman Theater



American Lives: Jewish Stories

Three intimate narratives focus on the challenges and joys of being Jewish in America. The film opens in a scenic Jewish summer camp in Wisconsin. Three teens contrast their diverse Jewish home-lives with this "unique community in the woods." Next is a 23-year-old Boston woman's personal account of tension between her solid Jewish upbringing

and her love for a Catholic man. Finally, a Baltimore mother recounts her journey back to Judaism. She talks frankly about her quest to integrate her secular and spiritual lives. *American Lives: Jewish Stories* offers a compelling glimpse into the universal search for renewal, spirituality and joy.

WITH:

Timbrels and Torahs: Celebrating Women's Wisdom

USA, 1999, Video, 30 minutes English Directors: Miriam Chaya and Judith Montell

Celebrating aging in a youth-obsessed culture, *Timbrels and Torahs: Celebrating Women's Wisdom* introduces "Simchat Hochmah" or "Celebration of Wisdom," a new rite of passage ceremony created for Jewish women making the transition from mid-life to their elder years. Weaving imagery of the ritual and personal stories, the filmmakers chronicle three

remarkable women, Savian Tubal - biblical scholar, Marcia Cohn Speigel - political activist, and Miriam Chaya - writer, filmmaker and actor, as they take the viewer through the steps of this ritual and its impact upon their lives and communities. Both film and ritual are celebrations of aging and the further definition of women as Jewish leaders.



Timbrels and Torahs: Celebrating Women's Wisdom

PRECEDED BY:

Almonds and Wine

Canada, 1999, 35mm, 5 minutes Yiddish Director: Arnie Lipsey



Co-sponsored by the Washington Jewish Women's Project and the Canadian Embassy Discussion: "Transitions In Traditions"

Panelists: Michelle Brafman-Helf, Director - *American Lives: Jewish Stories*
Miriam Chaya, Co-Producer and Director - *Timbrels And Torah: Celebrating Women's Wisdom*
Moderator: Rabbi Tamara Miller, Director of Jewish Living and Learning, DCJCC

The Brian Epstein Story

United Kingdom, 1998, Video, 140 minutes English

Director: Anthony Wall

Sunday, Dec 3, 8:30 pm
Cecile Goldman Theater

The Brian Epstein Story traces the rise and fall of the man behind the biggest cultural revolution of our times: The Beatles. As their manager, Brian Epstein's early life was fraught with failures. By 1963, despite his internal struggle around his homosexuality and his Jewish identity, he became the most successful pop manager in history, with clients like The Beatles, Gerry and the Pacemakers, Cilla Black, Billy J. Kramer and the Dakotas. Director Anthony Wall's film investigates the life and mind of one of the greatest agents of '60s change and one of its first tragedies. Chock full of Beatle concert footage, the film features interviews with Paul McCartney, Marianne Faithfull, Gerry Marsden, Billy J. Kramer, George Martin and readings from Epstein's journal by rising star, Jude Law (*The Talented Mr. Ripley*).

In cooperation with

 Reel Affirmations, Washington, DC's International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival,

 Bet Mishpachah, the Gay and Lesbian Synagogue of Washington, DC and The British Council

A reception sponsored by Reel Affirmations and open to all ticket holders will be held at 7 pm prior to the screening of *The Brian Epstein Story*.



The Brian Epstein Story



The Dybbuk

Disparus

France, 1998, 35mm, 105 minutes French with English subtitles

Director: Gilles Bourdos

Thursday, Dec 7, 7 pm
Visions

Sunday, Dec 10, 3:30 pm
Loews Cineplex Foundry Theatre



Passion, art and politics fuel this fascinating Parisian drama that moves back and forth in time as a woman tries to solve the mysterious disappearance of Alfred Katz. Katz-working man, Trotskyite and poet-arrives in Paris in the late 1930's and quickly gets caught up in events far beyond his comprehension and control. As Stalin settles scores inside Russia and assassinates Trotskyites abroad, Katz begins a passionate affair with Mila, Surrealist artist Man Ray's favorite nude model. The stellar cast includes Anouk Grinberg, Xavier Beauvois and Gregoire Cloin (*The Dream of Angels*) as Alfred Katz. (Film note courtesy of the Boston Jewish Film Festival)

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of France and the Alliance Francaise de Washington, DC

Welcoming Remarks:
Lazare Paupert, Attaché Culturel, Embassy of France

Introduction:
Aviva Kempner, Filmmaker

Special Guest:
Agnieszka Holland, Director

Family Secret

France/USA, 1999, Video, 58 minutes

French and Romanian with English subtitles

Director: Pola Rapaport

Monday, Dec 4, 6:15 pm
Cecile Goldman Theater



The Family Secret

A photo of a young child in her father's desk. A mysterious letter received from Romania. Beginning with these scant clues, *Family Secret* reveals how American film-maker Pola Rapaport discovered a long lost brother whose existence was kept a secret by their father, who died over 25 years ago. Mixing black and white images, archival footage and video, the filmmaker pieces together the account of her father's past and that of her 54-year-old half brother, Pierre

Randulescu-Bau. As the film unfolds, the viewer is invited to Pola's first meeting with Pierre in Bucharest, Pierre's arrival in America and their discovery of their grandparents' grave in Romania. In France, Pola and Pierre revisit the places where their parents lived, and search for long lost friends to fill in the family history in Paris during the 1940s and '50s. A moving film, *Family Secret* shows how some family bonds persevere even when divided by time, war and displacement.

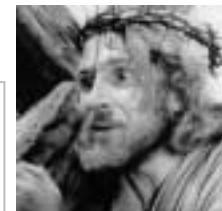
PRECEDED BY:

King of the Jews

USA, 2000, 16mm, 18 minutes English

Director: Jay Rosenblatt

"My world had been turned upside down. Jesus was a Jew!" After inadvertently catching a sneak preview of *The King of Kings* at Radio City Music Hall as a young boy, documentary filmmaker Jay Rosenblatt (*Human Remains*, WJFF 1998) was inspired to craft this visually arresting 18-minute short that examines the roots of Christian anti-Semitism.



King of the Jews

In cooperation with the Embassy of Romania, the Embassy of France, and the Alliance Francaise de Washington, DC

Welcoming Remarks:

Mirela Maglia, Acting Cultural Attaché, Embassy of Romania

Special Guest:

Pola Rapaport, Director

Fighter

USA, 2000, 35mm, 91 minutes

English and Czech with English subtitles

Director: Amir Bar-Lev

Saturday, Dec 9, 7:30 pm
Cecile Goldman Theater

Sunday, Dec 10, 1 pm
Loews Cineplex Foundry Theatre

Director Amir Bar-Lev's popular documentary *Fighter* is a powerful combination of friendship, adventure, and the inner strength of two friends

whose different paths, 50-years earlier, lead to collisions along the way today. Jan Weiner and Amost Lustig join forces and retrace the steps of a 25-year-old Weiner's courageous journey through war-torn Europe, with bits of chiding remarks, Czech boyhood humor, and plenty of emotional jabs at one another, leading them to the conclusion that theirs is an "unlikely friendship brought to the brink of collapse."

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of the Czech Republic

Welcoming Remarks:

Marcel Sauer, Cultural Attaché, Embassy of the Czech Republic

Special Guest:

Amost Lustig, Author and Professor, Department of Literature, American University (Dec 9 only)



Fighter



Fragments* Jerusalem

Fragments* Jerusalem

Israel, 1997, 16 mm
6 hours with a one-hour intermission
English and Hebrew and French with English subtitles

Director: Ron Havilio
This special screening costs \$10
Sunday, December 3, 1 pm
Loews Cineplex Foundry Theatre

A deeply personal journey through one of the world's most spiritual places, *Fragments* Jerusalem* takes us on an epic voyage through Jerusalem. Told in seven chapters, this experimental documentary reveals the history of the city through a combination of archival clips, drawings, stunning original footage, and personal reflections of the filmmaker, Ron Havilio. The film includes seemingly isolated segments from the filmmaker's personal life, family history, and the city's historical development. An artist as well as a filmmaker, Havilio has a painterly approach to documentary.

Fragments Jerusalem* promises to be a fascinating afternoon excursion through time and space. There will be a one-hour intermission during this film. Viewers can appreciate this film either in its entirety or each segment can be viewed independently. (Film note by Erica Ginsberg)

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel

"It Will End Up In Tears..."

Israel, 2000, Video
50 minutes
Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Gonen Glaser
Saturday, Dec 2, 5:45 pm
Cecile Goldman Theater

What happens to a warm, supportive and liberal family when the youngest daughter brings her girlfriend to dinner and declares that she is gay? "*It Will End Up In Tears...*" is a touching story of how the Talapars, a tight-knit Argentinean-Israeli family, copes and comes to terms with their daughter Maria's homosexuality.



"It Will End Up In Tears..."

WITH:

Babcha

See JEWISH BRIEFS on Pg. 10



Kippur

Israel, 2000, 35mm,

123 minutes
Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Amos Gitai
Monday, Dec 4, 8:30 pm
Cecile Goldman Theater
Sunday, Dec 10, 1:30 pm
Loews Cineplex Foundry Theatre

This powerful film, directed by Amos Gitai (*Kadosh*, WJFF 1999) is a searing, autobiographical chronicle of the 1973 Yom Kippur War. When war breaks out, two friends, Weintraub and Russo, head quickly for the Golan Heights. In the din of the

battlefield, both men are unable to find their unit. Instead, they meet up with an army doctor, Klauzner, and form a rescue team that will make repeated helicopter trips into the combat zone in a desperate effort to evacuate the dead and wounded. As their initial excitement and enthusiasm gives way to weariness and dread, the cohesiveness of the unit becomes the men's only emotional rock amidst a sea of war-charred chaos. As *Variety* writer David Stratton notes, "early scenes in no way prepare the viewer for the extraordinary realism of the battle front material, which is stunningly staged by Gitai and his team."

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel



Free program at the Goethe-Institut Washington.
For reservations: call 202-289-1200 ext. 176

Jazzman From The Gulag

France/Netherlands, 1999,
Video
58 minutes
English and Russian with English subtitles

Director: Pierre-Henry Salfati
Sunday, Dec 3, 5 pm
Goethe-Institut Washington

Jazzman From the Gulag retraces the life of legendary jazz musician Eddie Rosner; a man nicknamed "White Louis Armstrong" by Mr. Armstrong himself. Of Polish-Jewish decent, Rosner was a child prodigy as a classical violinist, and later went on to study to be a conductor at Berlin's Music Academy. When the Nazis took

power in Germany, Rosner fled eastward to the Soviet Union, where Stalin declared him a State musician. However, following the war, Stalin changed his thinking and sent Rosner to Siberia. There he again sought a group of musicians that would help him through these grueling times. French director Pierre-Henry Salfati and Russian writer Natalya Sazonova chronicle Rosner's adventures through music and love affairs, with the help of astonishing archival footage, including some of Rosner's greatest contemporaries.



Jazzman From The Gulag

WITH:



Weintraubs Syncopators

Germany, 2000, Video
60 minutes
German with English subtitles
Directors: Jörg Sussenbach and Klaus Sander



Weintraubs Syncopators

The Weintraubs Syncopators began their career in 1920s Berlin and quickly became one of the most sought-after Jazz bands in Berlin. *Weintraubs Syncopators*, the documentary, presents the career of these men, including performances in some of the greatest concert and music halls, as well as in the legendary film "Blue Angel" with Marlene Dietrich. At the peak of its career, the sextet electrified its audience with virtuoso and comic performances far beyond Germany's borders. Due to the Nazi invasion in 1933, the ensemble, comprised of mostly Jews, decided not to return to Germany following its Copenhagen engagement. Instead, the musicians began a long and adventurous musical odyssey from Italy to Scandinavia, Russia, Romania and Hungary. Then on to Japan and China, and finally, via New Zealand, to Australia, where

Washington: in cooperation with the Embassy of France, and the Alliance Française de Washington, DC

Welcoming Remarks:
Sylvia Blume, Program Coordinator, Goethe-Institut Washington

Free program at the National Gallery of Art.
Seating is on a first-come-first-serve basis.
For information: 202-842-6799.



The Life of the Jews in Palestine

The Life of the Jews in Palestine

Russia, 1913, 35mm
85 minutes
Hebrew, French and English subtitles
Director: Noah Sokolovsky
Sunday, Dec 10, 4 pm
National Gallery of Art

Tears of happiness gleamed in the eyes of Jewish audiences, "thirsty for redemption" said Israeli film exhibitor Yaakov Davidson, when *The Life of the Jews in Palestine* was first shown in European ghettos and market towns in 1913. Presumed to be lost for 80 years, the film resurfaced only recently when it was discovered in the vaults of the Centre Nationale de la Cinématographie, France's national film archive. This rarest of rarities shot by Russian documentarian and active Zionist Noah Sokolovsky, depicts Middle Eastern and

European Jews planting, sowing seeds, constructing schools and laboring side by side to build the nation that would become Israel. The film also portrays a number of early Israeli luminaries including Tel Aviv's first mayor, Meir Dizengoff, presiding over a city council and Joseph Trumpeldor (a founder of the World War I Jewish Legion) plowing his fields with his one remaining arm. *The Life of the Jews in Palestine* was truly a call for the Jews of the Diaspora to make aliyah and join their brethren living, working and praying in the land of milk and honey. The film will feature live piano accompaniment by Ray Brubacher.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel

Presented in association with the National Gallery of Art



The Maelstrom



Last Resort

Israel, 1999, 35mm, 95 minutes
Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Aner Preminger
Thursday, Dec 7, 9:00 pm
Cecile Goldman Theater

Saturday, Dec 9, 6 pm
Loews Cineplex Foundry Theatre

As the Oslo Agreement is signed in Washington, DC, the Nahal Settlement - the Israeli Army's communal living experiment - lies scattered amidst the terrain on mount Hazon in the lower Galilee. Through a series of cat and mouse games, Noam Wax, the charismatic leader of the group, gathers six former members of the settlement back

to the mountain. His purpose is to complete a documentary film about the settlement that will help him overcome the trauma and scars left over from those days. This psychologically gripping feature from renowned Israeli director Aner Preminger (*Blind Man's Bluff*), is the story of one man's trial to exorcise the demons of his past.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel; in cooperation with Israel Bonds, New Leadership Division

Welcoming Remarks:
His Excellency, The Ambassador of Israel, David Ivy

Special Guest:
Aner Preminger, Director

Wine reception following screening in honor of the Director hosted by the Embassy of Israel and Israel Bonds, New Leadership Division.

The Maelstrom

Netherlands, 1997, Video, 60 minutes
Dutch with English subtitles

Director: Péter Forgács
Sunday, Dec 3, 3:30 pm
Cecile Goldman Theater
Tuesday, Dec 5, 1 pm
Cecile Goldman Theater

In this remarkable award winning, experimental documentary by Hungarian artist Péter Forgács (*Free Fall*, WJFF, 1998), home movie footage made by the Dutch Jewish Peereboom family from 1938-1942 is used to reconstruct the family's everyday lives, emotions and feelings. Much like stepping into a family photo album, Forgács constructs a narrative

that allows the family to tell its own story in subtle yet profound language. Moving light and darkness. A family at a table. Piles of clothes everywhere in the room. Women repairing them. Everything seems to indicate that departure is near. Suitcases are standing ready in the background. Paired with a haunting score by composer Tibor Szemzo, *The Maelstrom* is an unsentimental yet personal journey.

The Lost Lover

Italy/United Kingdom, 1999,

35mm

97 minutes

English

Director: Roberto Faenza

Tuesday, Dec 5, 9:15 pm

Cecile Goldman Theater

Wednesday, Dec 6, 7 pm

Visions

Thursday, Dec 7, 1 pm

Cecile Goldman Theater

Inspired by Abraham Yehoshua's novel, *The Lost Lover* is a multi-layered dramatic love story about a strained marriage between Adam and his wife Asya. It is a frozen love, punctuated by deep

sorrow after the death of the couple's first child. In the background is Dafi, their keen-eyed teenage daughter who finds the love her mother cannot give her in Naim, the young Arab mechanic at her father's garage. Enter Gabriel, a young, vibrant Israeli who has just arrived from Paris. It is at this time that Asya, the seemingly loveless wife and mother, becomes rejuvenated and rediscovers herself and her family.

In cooperation with the Embassy of Israel, The British Council and the Istituto Italiano di Cultura



The Lost Lover

WITH:

One Day Crossing

USA/Hungary, 1999, 16mm, 25 minutes
Hungarian with English subtitles

Director: Joan Stein

director Joan Stein's *One Day Crossing* examines how identity, moral responsibility and simple humanity are shaped and persevere amidst horrible chaos.

Special Guest:
Joan Stein, Director
(Dec 3 only)

In cooperation with the Embassy of Hungary and the Embassy of the Netherlands

Budapest, Hungary. October 1944. As the Hungarian Nazi movement Arrow Cross grows stronger, a young mother poses as a Christian to protect her son. Yet, this charade is challenged when her husband brings home a Jewish boy he has saved from execution. Set in the tumultuous closing years of the Second World War, first time



One Day Crossing

JEWISH BRIEFS: A SHORTS PROGRAM

Saturday, Dec 9, 10 pm Cecile Goldman Theater

PLEASE NOTE: SHORTS WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE SCREENED IN THIS ORDER.

Madame Jacques sur la Croisette



Madame Jacques sur la Croisette

① France, 1995, 35mm
40 minutes
French with English subtitles
Director: Emmanuel Finkiel

In conjunction with the Washington, DC premiere of *Voyages*, this year we bring back director Emmanuel Finkiel's film, *Madame Jacques sur la Croisette* (WJFF, 1995). The film focuses upon an annual spring retreat in Cannes where a group of elderly French Jews reflect on aging, loving later in life and

their underlying bond of Yiddish culture. Breaking away from the group and its monotonous rhythm, widower Maurice searches for love with Madame Jacques. Despite her civilized past and the gossip of their friends, Maurice and Madame Jacques come together to share aging after the hardships of life.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of France and the Alliance Française de Washington, DC

Geographie



Geographie

② Germany, 1999, 35mm
2 minutes
Director: Deborah Phillips

A collage of sounds, Jewish imagery and languages, *Geographie* is a short experimental film that examines the nature of Jewish geography.

Co-sponsored by the Goethe-Institut Washington

Babcha

③ Israel, 1998, 16mm
28 minutes
Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Micky Zilbershtein

In this short by director Micky Zilbershtein, Dror, a hip, third generation Israeli, is the caregiver for his grandmother (Babcha). With the help of a motorcycle, a trip to the beach and much black humor, they both try to cope with the past.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel



Babcha



Cock Fight

Cock Fight

⑤ Israel, 2000, 16mm
13 minutes
Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Sigalit Liphshitz

In a hot summer day, an Israeli chicken breeder, Marziano, and his Romanian worker are driving their chickens to the market. The Palestinian checkpoint is declared closed just as they

arrive at the gate. Temperatures and tempers soar as Marziano argues to have the checkpoint reopened. He soon discovers that the officer in charge is Nabil, a former worker in his chicken coop.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel



The Metamorphosis of Mr. Samsa

Cohen's Wife

④ Israel, 2000, 16mm
24 minutes
Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Nava Heifetz

In the wake of a rape, a young ultra-orthodox woman awaits the Rabbinical court's decision whether or not her husband must divorce her in accordance with the Jewish law that states "a kohan's (a descendant of a Temple priest) wife who was raped is forbidden to her husband." Directed by an



Orthodox woman, *Cohen's Wife* is a provocative modern-day portrait of a couple torn by religious dogma and familial devotion. A co-production between The Ma'ale School of Communication, Art of Film and Television (most of whose pupils are orthodox Jews) and the secular Sam Spiegel Film and Television School, Jerusalem.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel

The Metamorphosis of Mr. Samsa

⑥ Canada, 1977, Video
10 minutes
English

Director: Caroline Leaf

When Gregor Samsa woke up one morning from unsettling dreams, he found himself changed in his bed into a monstrous insect." With this startling, bizarre, yet

surprisingly funny first sentence, Franz Kafka begins his masterpiece, "The Metamorphosis." Canadian animator Caroline Leaf's *The Metamorphosis of Mr. Samsa* is a superb sepia-toned interpretation of Kafka's nightmarish story.

In cooperation with the Canadian Embassy

JEWISH BRIEFS: A SHORTS PROGRAM CONTINUED

Saturday, Dec 9, 10 pm Cecile Goldman Theater

The Street

7 Canada, 1976, Video, 10 minutes

English

Director: Caroline Leaf

Based upon a story by writer Mordecai Richler (author of "The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz" and "Joshua Then and Now"), animator Caroline Leaf's *The Street* is a

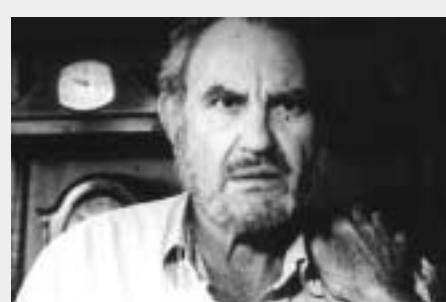


The Street

bittersweet tale about sibling rivalry, aging grandparents and "other mysteries of the human heart."

In cooperation with the Canadian Embassy

Return of Tuvia



Return of Tuvia

8 USA, 1999, 16mm, 5 minutes

English

Director: Akiva Potok

In this moving short directed by Akiva Potok, the aged Tuvia walks into a watch store in search of employment. Instead, the barrier between past and present is swept away as the shopkeeper makes a stunning recognition.

Under Control

9 Israel, 2000, 16mm, 13 minutes

Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Hillel Roseman

Hadar, a young army officer, goes navigating in the desert with one of his soldiers. In the course of the expedition, they discover some new facts about their shared past and Hadar is put to the ultimate test.

Co-sponsored with the Embassy of Israel



Under Control



Zummel

10 Canada, 1999, Video, 6 minutes

Directors: Allen Kaeja and Mark Adam

A haunting dance suite, *Zummel* (Gathering in Yiddish) is a metaphorical search for escape, liberation and arrival as six black clad figures are set adrift in this short choreographed by Allen Kaeja.

In cooperation with the Canadian Embassy



Zummel



Pleasures of Urban Decay

Pleasures of Urban Decay

& SLIDE PROGRAM

USA, 1999, 16mm, 18 minutes

English

Director: Sam Ball

Saturday, Dec 9, 5:45 pm
Cecile Goldman Theater

Hailed as one of America's last great comic strips, Ben Katchor's "Julius Knippl, Real Estate Photographer," is familiar to readers of

alternative weekly papers throughout the nation. With Katchor as our guide and narrator, *Pleasures of Urban Decay* takes the viewer on a tour behind New York City's facades and through its cracks. With his Yiddish inflected voice and offbeat witticisms, Katchor helps us uncover the symbolism and romance that turns NYC's TV antennae, cellar doors, and everyday trappings into urban poetry. The film, directed by Sam Ball, premiered at the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival and was featured at this year's Sundance and Paris, Cinéma du Réel Film Festivals.

Both Director and Artist will appear in person.

Additionally, Ben Katchor will present his slide lecture "Urban Navigation and a Plan for Carfare City," both a look at the mysterious processes involved in navigating the streets of a city and a presentation of the artist's utopian plan for urban redevelopment.

Special Guests:
Sam Ball, Director
Ben Katchor, Creator of Comic Strip "Julius Knippl, Real Estate Photographer"

Rosenzweig's Freedom



Rosenzweig's Freedom

Germany, 1998, 35mm,
90 minutes

German with English subtitles
Director: Liliane Targownik

Saturday, Dec 2, 7:30 pm

Cecile Goldman Theater

Sunday, Dec 3, 7:15 pm

Loews Cineplex Foundry Theatre

Wednesday, Dec 6, 1 pm

Cecile Goldman Theater

In September 1991, a group of skinheads attacks a foreign worker's hostel in Germany. The same night, a neo-Nazi leader is shot and killed.

Michael Rosenzweig is the

primary murder suspect. His brother Jacob (played by Benjamin Sadler), a young attorney, takes on his defense. Two Jewish brothers must fight the growing wave of extreme rightist violence in Germany. Although fiction, Liliane Targownik's *Rosenzweig's Freedom* deals with an authentic domestic social situation in contemporary Germany, in the shadow of a violent past.

 Co-sponsored by the Goethe-Institut Washington

Simon Magus

United Kingdom, 1998,
35mm,
115 minutes
English

Director: Ben Hopkins

Saturday, Dec 2, 5:45 pm

Loews Cineplex Foundry

Theatre

Tuesday, Dec 5, 7 pm

Visions



Simon Magus

Set in Poland in the late 19th century, *Simon Magus* is a dark fable of love, demonology, and supernatural business practices. Noah Taylor, fresh from his starring turn in 1996's *Shine*, plays Simon Magus- an outcast of a man possessed by his strange dreams and visions, yet only allowed to perform menial tasks for the townspeople. Known by all but friend to none, Simon is prey to visions of the devil - and the secrets of the villagers, rich, poor, Jew and Gentile alike. His unusual position makes him the key player in a struggle to build a railway station in town bringing the village

In cooperation with The British Council

Scottsboro: An American Tragedy

USA, 1999, Video,
84 minutes
English

Directors: Barak Goodman and Daniel Anker

Sunday, Dec 3, 6 pm

Cecile Goldman Theater

In March 1931, a train crowded with hoboes left Tennessee for points West. During the passage, a fight erupted between two groups of travelers - one white and one black. When the train halted just outside the town of Scottsboro, Alabama, two white women stepped forward from the shadows and made a shocking accusation: that they had been raped by the nine black youths aboard the train. So began one of the most significant, yet often forgotten, legal fights of the 20th century. The case became a flash point for the NAACP, the Communist Party, Alabama segregationists and Americans on both sides of the racial divide. After the defendants were handed down unanimous death sentences, Defense attorney Samuel Leibowitz, Al Capone's famous Jewish lawyer from New York, was hired to retry the case. Pilloried as a communist "Jewish carpetbagger" from the North, Leibowitz soon found himself

the object of discrimination and animosity. Featuring never before seen photos, archival footage, and interviews with surviving witnesses, *Scottsboro: An American Tragedy* deftly tells this extraordinary story for the first time on film.

This screening is part of the on-going Windows and Mirrors series co-sponsored by the DCJCC and the African American Resource Center at Howard University. Windows and Mirrors celebrates shared traditions between the African American and Jewish communities.

Panel Discussion with:

Barak Goodman, Director,
Daniel Anker, Director
Deidre Cross, former
Scottsboro resident

Maurice Jackson, visiting
Associate Professor of History,
Georgetown University; former
DC and national member and
leader of the Communist
Party, U.S.A.

James Miller, Professor of
English and American Studies;
and Director of Africana
Studies, George Washington
University

Introduced and Moderated
by: E. Ethelbert Miller, Co-
Chair of The Humanities
Council of Washington, DC.



Scottsboro: An American Tragedy

The Specialist

France/Israel/Germany/Austria/Belgium, 1998, 35mm,
128 minutes
German and Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Eyal Sivan

Tuesday, Dec 5, 6:15 pm

Cecile Goldman Theater



The Specialist

From Israeli-born, Paris-based Eyal Sivan comes *The Specialist*, a highly controversial black and white documentary about Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann and one of the most famous trials in history. Derived from the 350 surviving hours of the 500 shot over the course of this eight-month trial, the footage is presented with a

provocative hand. Through unique lighting, dynamic sound effects and a jarring score, the spectators are drawn into Eichmann's subhuman psyche, and the "banality of evil" is chillingly apparent. Behind the glass window sits an unnervingly calm Eichmann whose primary function in 1930s Europe was to tend to the "Jewish issue."

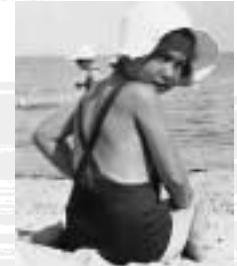
WITH:

Zyklon Portrait

Canada, 1999, 16mm,
13 minutes
English

Director: Elida Schogt

Director Elida Schogt's film *Zyklon Portrait* is a personal and powerful experimental film that meshes home movies, archival instructional films, underwater photography, family snapshots and hand painted imagery to create an elegy for her Dutch grandparents.



Zyklon Portrait

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of France, the Embassy of Israel, Alliance Francaise de Washington, DC, the Goethe-Institut Washington and the Canadian Embassy



A Trial In Prague

A Trial In Prague



USA, 2000, 16mm, 83 minutes
Czech with English subtitles
Director: Zuzana Justman
Wednesday, Dec 6, 6:30 pm
Cecile Goldman Theater
Friday, Dec 8, 1 pm
Cecile Goldman Theater

At the height of the Cold War, an infamous political show trial took place in Czechoslovakia. In 1952 14 leading Communists, including Rudolf Slansky, the second most powerful man in the country, were tried on charges of high treason and espionage. Although they were innocent of these charges, they confessed, and the fourteen men, 11 of whom were Jews, were all convicted. Through testimonies, trial footage, archival films and extensive documentation, Writer/Director/Producer Zuzana Justman's documentary *A Trial In Prague* tells the story of the trial and the paranoia of the period. Among the people who appear in the film are Lise London, whose late husband Artur (released from prison in 1956) wrote about the trial in a widely published memoir "The Confession." Additionally, Eduard Goldstucker, a Kafka scholar and the first Czech Ambassador to Israel who was jailed and forced to testify; and Jan Kavan, the present Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs, whose father was also a trial witness, are seen in this film.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of the Czech Republic

Welcoming Remarks:
Marcel Sauer, Cultural Attaché, Embassy of the Czech Republic

Special Guest:
Zuzana Justman, Writer/Director/Producer

Voyages

France, 1999, 35mm, 115 minutes
French, Hebrew, Yiddish with English subtitles
Director: Emmanuel Finkiel
Saturday, Dec 2 5:45 pm
Loews Cineplex Foundry Theatre
Sunday, Dec 3, 4:15 pm
Loews Cineplex Foundry Theatre
Monday, Dec 4, 1 pm
Cecile Goldman Theater



Voyages

Part drama, part mystery, director Emmanuel Finkiel (*Madame Jacques sur la Croisette*, WJFF, 1995), follows the lives of three seemingly unconnected elderly Jewish women across borders and cultures as they attempt to piece together the past and present. Rivka is on a bus tour of Poland when she is left behind at a Jewish cemetery. In Paris, Régine receives a call from an elderly man from Lithuania who claims to be her long-lost father. Amidst the busy streets of Tel Aviv, Russian émigré Vera searches for a distant cousin. In verse and rhythm, *Voyages* recalls a lost Eastern European Jewish world where Yiddish is the common language. Using both professional and amateur actors, Finkiel's quiet film knits together these seemingly disparate lives in a beautiful and emotional conclusion.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of France and Alliance Française de Washington, DC

Welcoming Remarks:

Laurent Mellier, Executive Director Alliance Française de Washington, DC



Vulcan Junction

Vulcan Junction

Israel, 1999, 35mm, 102 minutes
Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Eran Riklis
Monday, Dec 4, 7 pm
Visions
Saturday, Dec 9, 8:45 pm
Loews Cineplex Foundry Theatre
Monday, Dec 4, 1 pm
Cecile Goldman Theater

Vulcan Junction

The latest film from *Cup Final* Director Eran Riklis, *Vulcan Junction* covers a week in the lives of a group of friends just before the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Jamming at the local rock and roll bar, Vulcan Junction, Michael, Danny, Yigdar and Eli spend their days practicing and waiting for their big break. The arrogant and short-sighted Avi tries out for a spot on the revered Ajax soccer team in Amsterdam. His driven and bright girlfriend Dalia must choose between family obligation and a career as a journalist at a left wing newspaper. The film is the story of friendship and betrayal, expectations and obligation, and the unrelenting force of change in all the lives of these young people. *Vulcan Junction* is a nostalgic trip back in time to the last moments before the whole country was engulfed in a war that would forever change it. Featuring a cast of talented Israeli screen and TV stars, including Florentine's Sami Houri, the film is powered by the classic '70s rock of Deep Purple, The Animals, King Crimson, Jethro Tull, and The Zombies. (Film note courtesy of the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival)

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel

Welcoming Remarks:

Aviva Raz-Schechter, Counselor, Public and Cultural Affairs, Embassy of Israel

We Were In It Too: American-Jewish Women Veterans Remember World War II

USA, 2000, Video, 52 minutes
English

Director: Debora Duerksen
Sunday, Dec 10, 1 pm
Cecile Goldman Theater

Director Debora Duerksen's enlightening documentary unveils the World War II experiences of eight American-Jewish women through personal interviews and voice-over readings. In spite of the sexism and anti-Semitism, both in the ranks and among the military brass, all the veterans in *We Were In It Too* volunteered out of a strong wish to defeat Hitler. Some of

the volunteers worked their way into positions of trust and authority, while others' skills and intelligence were never fully recognized. However, all are proud to have served. Special attention is paid to the contribution of medical professionals serving at the Front and of those stationed in Germany both during the war and after the surrender of German Forces.

In cooperation with the Goethe-Institut Washington and the German Embassy

Special Guest:
Debora Duerksen, Director



We Were In It Too: American-Jewish Women Veterans Remember World War II

Would I Lie To You?

France, 1997, 35mm, 96 minutes
French with English subtitles

Director: Thomas Gilou
Friday, Dec 1, 1 pm
Cecile Goldman Theater
Sunday, Dec 3, 2 pm
Loews Cineplex Foundry Theatre
Sunday, Dec 10, 3:15 pm
Loews Cineplex Foundry Theatre



Would I Lie To You?

What does it take to pass as a Jew? Set in The Sentier, Paris' Tunisian-Jewish garment district, Director Thomas Gilou's whimsical, romantic comedy, *Would I Lie To You?* explores this confounding question. Edouard, a gentile, is down on his luck and out of a job. Fleeing from a street brawl with two local toughs, he is saved by Victor Benzakem, a wealthy businessman who

mistakes him for a Jew. Taken under Victor's wing, Edouard is given a job and is welcomed into the local Sephardic community where he is soon surrounded by a number of colorful friends, including Sandra, the boss's beguiling daughter. A modern day Jewish melange of "Great Expectations" and the "Prince and the Pauper," *Would I Lie To You?* is a light hearted tale

that proves, yarmulke or not, life and love are full of pitfalls and triumphs.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of France, Alliance Française de Washington, DC

Welcoming Remarks:
Lazare Paupert, Attaché Culturel, Embassy of France (Dec 1 only)

Aaron Goldman

The Washington Jewish Film Festival mourns the loss of our dear friend, Aaron Goldman, whose generous support, constant encouragement and friendship helped us to realize our full potential. We will miss him dearly.

Thanks

11th Washington Jewish Film Festival Funders

Our deepest thanks to our Film Festival Funders who make this exhibition of film possible.

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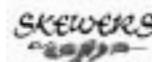
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