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The
**12th WASHINGTON
JEWISH
*Film
Festival***



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*

NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 9, 2001

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WASHINGTON

QUICK GLANCE CALENDAR

<i>Thursday November 29th</i>	Gripsholm	7:00pm	<i>Lincoln Theatre</i>
<i>Friday November 30th</i>	The Komediant	1:00pm	<i>Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater</i>
<i>Saturday December 1st</i>	Taking Wing	6:00pm	<i>Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater</i>
	Waiting for the Messiah	8:00pm	<i>Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater</i>
	Jewish Briefs I – A Shorts Program	10:00pm	<i>Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater</i>
<i>Sunday December 2nd</i>	One of the Hollywood Ten	1:00pm	<i>Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater</i>
	Louba's Ghosts	1:30pm	<i>4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas</i>
	Uncle Chatzel with Still (Stille) and The Walnut Tree	3:00pm	<i>Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater</i>
	The Optimists: The Story of the Rescue of the Jews of Bulgaria	2:00pm	<i>US Holocaust Memorial Museum</i>
	Dad On the Run	4:30pm	<i>4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas</i>
	The Vow	5:00pm	<i>Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater</i>
	Promises	7:00pm	<i>Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater</i>
<i>Monday December 3rd</i>	Jewish Briefs I – A Shorts Program	1:00pm	<i>Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater</i>
	The Komediant	6:30pm	<i>Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater</i>
	Waiting for the Messiah	7:00pm	<i>4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas</i>
	Facing the Forest	8:15pm	<i>Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater</i>
<i>Tuesday December 4th</i>	A Family Secret with Matrilineal	1:00pm	<i>Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater</i>
	Resistance: Untold Stories of Jewish Partisans	6:00pm	<i>Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater</i>
	Time of Favor	7:00pm	<i>4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas</i>
	Louba's Ghosts	8:45pm	<i>Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater</i>

JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

QUICK GLANCE CALENDAR

Wednesday December 5th	<i>The Vow</i>	1:00pm	Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater
	<i>Company Jasmine</i>	6:30pm	Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater
	<i>One of the Hollywood Ten</i>	7:00pm	4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas
	<i>Anna's Summer</i>	7:00pm	National Museum of Women in the Arts
	<i>The Balcony with Isa Kremer: The People's Diva</i>	8:30pm	Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater
Thursday December 6th	<i>The Balcony with Isa Kremer: The People's Diva</i>	1:00pm	Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater
	<i>A Family Secret with Matrilineal</i>	6:30pm	Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater
	<i>Anna's Summer</i>	7:00pm	4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas
	<i>Taking Wing</i>	8:45pm	Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater
Friday December 7th	<i>Anna's Summer</i>	1:00pm	Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater
Saturday December 8th	<i>Gloomy Sunday</i>	6:30pm	Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater
	<i>Jewish Briefs II – A Shorts Program</i>	8:45pm	Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater
	<i>Bette Midler: Dirty Girl in a Bathhouse</i>	11:00pm	Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater
Sunday December 9th	<i>Facing the Forest</i>	1:00pm	Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater
	<i>Gloomy Sunday</i>	1:00pm	4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas
	<i>Summer In Ivye</i>	2:45pm	Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater
	<i>Trembling Before G-d</i>	3:15pm	4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas
	<i>Once We Grow Up</i>	7:00pm	Lincoln Theatre

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Through this bounty of rich and illuminating films, we offer you a place to look at the world, make sense of it, understand the past and look toward a hopeful future. Our filmmakers insist that we “see” ourselves and “see” the world through diverse lenses. In their finely etched cinematic work, which becomes a kind of poetry, they tell the stories of humanity at its best and at its worst. At the same time, they bring to us their unflinching reassurance that there is compassion and humor in this imperfect world. And, in fresh new work by young filmmakers, we are assured of the human potential for creativity and replenishment. We bring you to a place to find some answers, ask some questions and often to encounter the heroes of our own time or in a time past. In every season, we look to our artists to help us express our emotions, clarify our issues, make sense of what we know or want to know. This season is no exception as we celebrate and uplift humanity through art.

Miriam Mörsel Nathan
Director

TICKETS

TICKET PRICES

Opening Night at the Lincoln Theatre and Reception \$25
Closing Night at the Lincoln Theatre with Wine and Music \$20
Evening and Weekend Screenings: \$8
Bargain Matinees – All weekday shows before 6 pm: \$5.50
Student and Senior Discount - \$1 off regular prices
except Opening and Closing Night
Sorry, no passes accepted
All Ticket Sales Are Final

ADVANCE TICKETS

Advance ticket sales available through



Secure Online Ticketing

- Link from our website at www.wjff.org
- Visit www.boxofficetickets.com

Or Call

1-800-494-8497 / FAX 1-800-329-8497 / TDD 1-877-833-8497

Open: Mon.- Fri. 10 am - 6pm
Sat. 11 am - 5pm
Sunday 11 am - 3 pm

Closed: Thursday, Nov. 22nd (Thanksgiving) and Friday, Nov. 23rd

All tickets ordered at least 7 days prior to the screening date will be mailed to the purchaser. All tickets ordered less than 7 days prior to the screening date must be picked up in person at the Will Call table of the specific theater where the film is playing on the day of the screening. On advance ticket purchases, there is a 50 cent handling fee per film. Advance tickets will not be available at Festival venues, which will only sell Same Day Tickets.

BOX OFFICE HOURS/SAME DAY TICKETS

Can be purchased (subject to availability) at the box office of the specific theater where the film is playing, or by calling at 1-800-494-8497 until 2pm daily except Sundays

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater Box Office (202-777-3229)
Weekdays, the Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater Box Office opens one hour prior to the first daytime screening and then re-opens one hour prior to the first evening screening. Weekends, the box office opens one hour prior to the first screening of the day and remains open. No advance ticket sales at the Theater – same day sales only. The Box Office and Will Call tables are located in the 16th Street Lobby. The entrance to the Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater is on the 2nd floor.

Lincoln Theatre Box Office opens at 10 am on November 29th and December 9th for same-day sales only. Cash or check only, no credit cards accepted. No advance ticket sales at the Lincoln Theatre prior to November 29th and December 9th.

4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas Box Office opens one hour prior to the first WJFF screening of the day and remains open.

National Museum of Women in the Arts: Tickets available at the Box Office in the lobby of the Museum one hour prior to the screening.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: Admission is free and open to the public. For reservations, call Tickets.com at (800) 400-9373. Service fee applies.

Two Days Only!! DCJCC members and Film Festival Funders have priority ticket purchasing privileges on November 15th and 16th. Tickets for the general public go on sale November 18th.

GENERAL INFORMATION

For general information call (202) 777-3248 or visit us on the web:
www.wjff.org

General seating will begin 15 minutes prior to screening time.

All theaters are wheelchair accessible.

A limited number of free tickets are allocated for each screening for those who cannot afford the cost of admission. Arrangements must be made in advance by calling (202) 777-3248.

All discussions are free and open-to-the-public subject to availability.

FILMS AND GUESTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

PARENTAL DISCRETION ADVISED FOR MOST FILMS.

GETTING TO THE THEATERS

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater
District of Columbia Jewish Community Center
1529 16th Street NW, Washington DC
(Corner of 16th and Q Streets, NW)

Metro: Dupont Circle (Q Street exit) on the Red Line
The DCJCC's free shuttle between the Dupont Circle Metro (Q Street Exit) and the DCJCC will have extended hours during the week of the Festival! Look for the white DCJCC van waiting outside the Q Street exit at the northwest corner of 20th and Q Streets. The shuttle runs approximately every 15 minutes. The schedule is as follows:
Saturday 6 pm - 11:45 pm; Sunday 12 noon - 11:45 pm; Monday through Thursday 5 - 11:45 pm; Friday 11 am - 2pm. If you prefer to walk, the DCJCC is an easy, well-lit, 5-block walk from the Metro, directly east on Q Street.

Parking: If you are going to drive, remember to leave plenty of extra time for parking. There is limited parking available for the disabled in the DCJCC's Q Street lot. The closest parking garage is located at 1622 P St. Hours: 7am - 7pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. 7am - 4pm Wednesday and 7am - 4pm Sunday. Another option is Diplomat Parking Garage, located at 1500 Mass. Ave., NW (on the southwest corner of 15th and Mass.) Hours: 6am - midnight Monday through Friday. 8am - 6pm Saturdays. Closed Sundays. New Hampshire and Dupont.

Need to finish your Chanukah shopping? Bring in your ticket stub to the DCJCC's Gift Shop and receive 10% off. Offer good until the end of Chanukah.

OTHER FESTIVAL LOCATIONS

Lincoln Theatre
1215 U Street NW, Washington DC

Metro: U Street/Cardozo (13th Street Exit) on the Green Line

Parking: Valet parking will be provided for a \$6 fee.

4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas
4000 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington DC

Metro: Tenleytown on the Red Line. Walk south on Wisconsin Avenue for 5 blocks.

Parking: Garage is located on Upton Street. Cost is \$1.00 for 3 hours parking. Must bring ticket to the theater to be validated.

National Museum of Women in the Arts
1250 New York Avenue NW, Washington DC
(Corner of New York Avenue and 13th Street)

Metro: Two blocks north of Metro Center (13th Street Exit) on Red/Blue/Orange Lines

Parking: Visitors can be dropped off directly in front of the museum's main entrance at 1250 New York Avenue. Limited metered street parking.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC 20024

Metro: 1 block north of Smithsonian on Blue/Orange Line.

Parking: Visitors can be dropped off directly in front of the museum's main entrance on 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW. Limited metered street parking.

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online gift shop. Visit
our website at
www.wjff.org and click
the gift shop button.

FILMS

OPENING NIGHT FILM



GRIPSHOLM

Switzerland/Germany, 2000,
35mm, 108 minutes
German with English
subtitles
Director: Xavier Koller

**Thursday, November 29th
7:00pm**

Lincoln Theatre
**Reception to follow at
the Lincoln Theatre.**
Film and Reception: \$25
Valet parking available
for a \$6 fee.
No credit cards
accepted at the door.

Xavier Koller's sensuous film **Gripsholm**, plunges the viewer into the decadent, hedonistic world of Berlin cabaret. Thanks to his cheeky chanson lyrics, Kurt, an aggressive journalist and ironic Jewish author, has become something of a star in the revue scene. In what seems to be an endless summer, Kurt and his girlfriend, Lydia, travel to Gripsholm Castle in Sweden where, prompted by his publisher, Kurt is hoping to find the inspiration to create a 'lightweight summer story'. Two friends- passionate flier Karlchen and seductive cabaret singer Billie - soon join the lovers at their idyllic holiday retreat. However, Karlchen's political stance provokes plenty of arguments, while Billie's presence leads to many an erotic disruption. As summer gives way to melancholy fall, political events threaten to engulf Kurt's world. Based upon the semi-autobiographical novel "Schloss Gripsholm" by brilliant and prolific author Kurt Tucholsky, **Gripsholm** is a richly hewn piece that immerses the viewer in the time just before the second World War.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Switzerland, the Goethe-Institut Washington; in cooperation with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

Welcoming Remarks: William Kreisberg, President, DCJCC; Lori Ann Skolnick, Chair, Washington Jewish Film Festival; Tony Gittens, Executive Director DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities; Arnona Shir-On, Director Cultural Affairs, Embassy of Israel; Eric Amhof, Cultural Counselor, Embassy of Switzerland; Werner Ott, Director, the Goethe-Institut Washington

Special Guest: Xavier Koller, Director

CLOSING NIGHT FILM

ONCE WE GROW UP

France, 2000, 35mm
102 minutes
French with English subtitles
Director: Renaud Cohen

Sunday, December 9th, 7:00pm

Lincoln Theatre

Wine and Music to follow

Film, Wine and Music: \$20
Music performed by Nefrit El-Or
Valet parking available for a \$6 fee.
No credit cards accepted at the door

In the charming French film **Once We Grow Up**, thirty-year-old Simon is at his wits end, trying to juggle his job as a writer, his girlfriend with whom he's trying to have a child, his colorful friends, dodgy parents, not to mention his grandma who has taken to wandering the Paris streets. Add Claire, his alluring pregnant neighbor who has been abandoned by her husband, and you have the ingredients for a witch's brew of comedy and romance. With Matthieu Demy **Jeanne Et Le Garçon Formidable** and Amira Casars **Would I Lie to You?**, 2000 WJFF.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of France; in cooperation with The Alliance Française de Washington, DC

Welcoming Remarks: Roland Celette, Attaché Culturel, Embassy of France

Special Guest: Renaud Cohen, Director



ANNA'S SUMMER

Greece/Germany/Spain, 2001, 35mm

108 minutes

English, Greek, German, and Spanish with English subtitles

Director: Jeanine Meerapfel

Wednesday, December 5th, 7:00pm

National Museum of Women in the Arts

Thursday, December 6th, 7:00pm

4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas

Friday, December 7th, 1:00pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater



Imagination is non-linear and memory is not orderly in Jeanine Meerapfel's beautifully languid film, **Anna's Summer**. Upon readying her inherited family Greek home for sale, Anna is revisited by memories of her own past and that of her Sephardic-Jewish family. She discovers old telegrams from her grandmother and the diaries of her father's first love. All help her to soothe the pain of losing her husband and to ignite the flame of passion between Anna and a mysterious younger man. A unique Greek-German-Spanish co-production, **Anna's Summer** is alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of the Mediterranean (with Angela Molina, star of Pedro Almodovar's *Live Flesh*, as Anna).

Co-sponsored by the Goethe-Institut Washington; in cooperation with the Embassy of Greece, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Embassy of Spain.

Welcoming remarks: Werner Ott, Director Goethe-Institut Washington; Connie Mourtoupalas, Cultural Attaché, Embassy of Greece

THE BALCONY

Israel, 2000, Video

54 minutes

Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Ruth Walk

Wednesday, December 5th, 8:30pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater

Thursday, December 6th, 1:00pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater



On a brisk winter morning in a Tel Aviv neighborhood, filmmaker Ruth Walk saw a simple scene unfold before her eyes: perched on a balcony above the street, a dapper old man in a red tie was waving to his seven year-old grandson below. Intrigued by this gentle event, Walk knew she had to make the old man's acquaintance. From that chance meeting came this enchanting film, **The Balcony**. The man, it turned out, was acclaimed artist Israel Becker, best known for his autobiographical film, **Long Is the Road** (1947), which was the first film to represent the Holocaust from a Jewish point of view. Wading into his home amidst a sea of paintings, Walk soon learned that Becker was an artist still possessed by a great lust for life. Now 83, his balcony has become his new stage from which he and his family testify to the resilience of Jewish life and Jewish culture.

Co-sponsored by The Embassy of Israel

with



ISA KREMER: THE PEOPLE'S DIVA

USA, 2000, Video

56 minutes

English

Director: Nina Baker Feinberg

An amazingly gifted performer who brought Yiddish songs from the shadows of pre-Revolutionary Russia to many of the world's greatest concert stages, nightingale Isa Kremer has been all but forgotten. Nina Baker Feinberg's remarkable documentary uses archival footage and photos to recover

the story of this fabulous performer who, in the face of totalitarianism and despotism, sang proudly in Yiddish the world over.

In cooperation with Yiddish of Greater Washington

Advance Tickets/No Service Charge (but handling fees apply)

BETTE MIDLER: DIRTY GIRL IN A BATHHOUSE, A Video Clip Presentation by Andrew Ingall
USA, 2001, Video
60 minutes
English
Presenter: Andrew Ingall

Saturday, December 8th, 11:00pm
Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater

Time travel back thirty years to a chic bathhouse where "the Jewish Tinker Bell" dazzled the demi-monde of New York City. This clip presentation not only pays homage to Miss M, but also critically examines why gay and Jewish audiences perceive Midler as a celebrity icon. Rarely-seen footage will include Bette's appearance at New York's Gay Pride Rally in 1973 and her outrageous stunt to score a \$5,000 pledge at the 1975 UJA telethon. Andrew Ingall curates screenings on popular culture, opera, and television. He has presented programs at the International Association for Media and History, the National Yiddish Book Center, and the New York Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. He is Collections Manager for the National Jewish Archive of Broadcasting & Media at The Jewish Museum, New York.

In cooperation with Bet Mishpachah and Reel Affirmations, Washington, DC's International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.



COMPANY JASMINE
Israel, 2000, Video
57 minutes
Hebrew with English Subtitles
Director: Yael Katzir

Wednesday, December 5th, 6:30pm
Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater

Turning 18 is a significant moment in a young Israeli's life, for it marks the time when both women and men must begin compulsory military service. In **Company Jasmine**, director Yael Katzir's superb in-the-trenches documentary, 50 female cadets in training for the prestigious Israeli Women Field Officers School are shadowed over a grueling five-month period in the field.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel; in cooperation with The New Israel Fund

Welcoming remarks: Aviva Raz-Shechter, Counselor Public Affairs, Embassy of Israel
Special Guests: Yael Katzir, Director; Avisag Kichel, Former Cadet Company Jasmine

DAD ON THE RUN
France, 2000, 35mm
92 minutes
French with English subtitles
Director: Dante Desarthe

Sunday, December 2nd, 4:30pm
4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas

Dante Desarthe's light comedy, **Dad On the Run**, is set against the backdrop of the Pope's August 1997 visit to Paris. Jonas (Clement Sibony, star of *Taking Wing*), a "professional" Bar Mitzvah entertainer, has just become a father for the first time.

Because his family is of mixed Sephardic and Ashkenazi heritage, he and his wife are unsure of which ritual to observe for their son's circumcision. Finally, they decide to follow a North African custom which requires Jonas to bury the foreskin. Things take an unexpected turn when Jonas loses the precious bit of flesh after attempting to bury it at a construction site. A madcap chase ensues through the streets of Paris as Jonas attempts to complete his mission.



In cooperation with the Embassy of France; The Alliance Française de Washington, DC

FACING THE FOREST

Israel, 1999, Video

96 minutes

Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Dany Wachsmann

Monday, December 3rd, 8:15pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater

Sunday, December 9th, 1:00pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater



Based upon a story by Israeli author A.B. Yehoshua, **Facing the Forest** is a crisp film-noir that unleashes a deluge of paranoia from the outset. Alex, an erstwhile graduate student, takes a no-stress job as a fire spotter in Israel's Carmel Forest. Hoping to finish his thesis on the Crusaders, he unwittingly discovers the ruins of a castle built by Eduard La Grand - a 12th Century Christian knight who, it appears may have converted to Islam. He finds an ancient coin that adds more fuel to this archeological fire. Alex soon uncovers more than he bargained for when he stumbles over a dead body which disappears from the scene of the crime.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel

A FAMILY SECRET

Israel, 2001, Video

56 minutes

English and Polish w/English subtitles

Director: Ronit Kertsner

Tuesday, December 4th, 1:00pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater

Thursday, December 6th, 6:30pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater

This is the fascinating story of Polish citizens who learn, often after living a lifetime as Christians in a Communist nation, that they are indeed of Jewish origin. Trapped between the familiar Polish world and an alien Jewish world, these "new Jews" often find themselves adrift in a country where religion and nationhood are inextricably linked. Filmmaker Ronit Kertsner's gripping documentary introduces the audience to students, homemakers, and even a Catholic priest, who are on a quest to discover the truth about their pasts and its consequences for their future.



Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel; in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland

Welcoming Remarks: Amma Niewiadomska, Minister - Counselor Cultural Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Poland

with

MATRILINEAL

USA, 2001, 16mm

30 minutes

English, Italian and Spanish with English subtitles

Director: Caterina Klusemann



*All her life, filmmaker Caterina Klusemann believed she was of Venezuelan-Polish Catholic ancestry. Unbeknownst to her, both her grandmother and mother were Jewish survivors of the Holocaust. **Matrilineal** is her intensely personal documentary that follows these three generations of women after this truth is revealed. Knit together from home movie footage, the film challenges the notion that trauma must be inherited and shows how, when the silence is finally broken, a family can be brought together.*

GLOOMY SUNDAY

Germany/Hungary, 1999, 35mm
114 minutes
German with English subtitles
Director: Rolf Schübel

Saturday, December 8th, 6:30pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater
Sunday, December 9th, 1:00pm
4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas



The iconic hit song of the 1930's, "Gloomy Sunday," is the inspiration behind this highly charged romantic drama set in pre-war Budapest. Told in flashback, director Rolf Schübel's film recounts a tragic love between a Jewish restaurant owner László, his beautiful assistant Ilona, and a pianist András who pens this memorable melody. The fragile balance of their ménage à trois spirals out of control — first with the arrival of Hans, a young German business man who falls in love with Ilona, (played by Ben Becker, last seen in the 10th Fest film, *The Harmonists*). Later with the outbreak of the war, Hans, now an SS colonel, returns offering Jews free passage out of Hungary in exchange for money. Featuring Erika Marozsan from the 2000 WJFF short *One Day Crossing* as Ilona. (note adapted from the 2000 Festival of Jewish Cinema, Australia).

Co-sponsored by the Goethe-Institut Washington; in cooperation with the Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany

THE KOMEDIANT

Israel, 1999, 35mm
85 minutes
English, Yiddish with English subtitles
Director: Arnon Goldfinger

Friday, November 30th, 1:00pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater
Monday, December 3rd, 6:30pm
Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater



A unique, bittersweet epic, *The Komediант* is a look at the history of Yiddish theater through the story of the marvelous Burstein family. Brimming with Yiddish culture, music and song, director Arnon Goldfinger's film charts the family on their amazing journey from Europe, through Israel and South America all the way to New York's Second Avenue.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel; in cooperation with Yiddish of Greater Washington

LOUBA'S GHOSTS

France, 2001, 35mm
105 minutes
French with English subtitles
Director: Martine Dugowson

Sunday, December 2nd, 1:30pm

4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas
Tuesday, December 4th, 8:45pm
Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater

A woman's past and present overlap each other in Martine Dugowson's (director of *Mina Tannenbaum*) stirring drama, *Louba's Ghosts*. Abandoned by her father, young Louba is taken in by a French family in the countryside. Angry and isolated, she latches firmly onto her charismatic friend, Jeanie. When Jeanie steals the object of her affections, the handsome Charlie, Louba feels betrayed and alone again. Fast forward to modern day Paris where fate conspires to bring Charlie, Jeanie and Louba (played with quiet intensity by Elsa Zylberstein, star of *Man Is Woman*, 1998 WJFF) together once again.

In cooperation with the Embassy of France and The Alliance Française de Washington, DC



Screening at The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: Admission is free and open to the public. For reservations, call tickets.com at (800) 400-9373.

THE OPTIMISTS: THE STORY OF THE RESCUE OF THE JEWS OF BULGARIA

USA/Israel, 2001, 35mm

82 minutes

English, Hebrew and Bulgarian English subtitles

Director: Jacky Comforty

Sunday, December 2nd, 2:00pm

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

The Optimists: The Story of the Rescue of the Jews of Bulgaria

Bulgaria tells the remarkable, yet little known, story of how fifty-thousand Bulgarian Jews survived the Holocaust thanks to the efforts of Bulgarian Christians, Muslims, trade unions, Communists, professional guilds and others who sheltered Jews and defied Nazi deportation orders. It is directed by award-winning filmmaker, Jacky Comforty, whose family was among those rescued and who has long been determined to tell this story on film. ***The Optimists*** is not only a Jewish story. It is a universal one, powerful in its ability to inspire religious tolerance, civil courage, and optimism in all audiences.

Cosponsored with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and supported by a grant from The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation; the Embassy of Israel and the Embassy of Bulgaria

Welcoming Remarks: His Excellency, the Ambassador of Bulgaria, Philip Dimitrov; Arnona Shir-On, Director Cultural Affairs, Embassy of Israel; Shari Rosenstein Werb, Director, Educational and Public Programs the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Special Guest: Jacky Comforty, Director



ONE OF THE HOLLYWOOD TEN

USA, 2000, 35mm

104 minutes

English

Director: Karl Francis

Sunday, December 2nd, 1:00pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater

Wednesday, December 5th, 7:00pm

4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas



Set in the United States at the height of the Red Scare, the riveting film ***One of the Hollywood Ten*** boldly retells the true story of Jewish director Herbert Biberman's struggle to continue making films in the face of Cold War paranoia and blacklisting of the 1940's and 50's. Hauled before Senator Joseph McCarthy's infamous House UnAmerican Activities Committee, Biberman (played by Jeff Goldblum, from ***The Big Chill***) refuses to falsely denounce his fellow filmmakers as communists and, for this refusal, is imprisoned. Jailed with nine other filmmakers, Biberman became part of the group dubbed the "Hollywood Ten". Despite an Academy Award gracing her mantel, Biberman's wife Gale (played by Greta Scacchi, from ***The Player***) is soon blacklisted for her unflinching support of her husband. Once released from prison, Biberman defies the blacklist and begins work on the film ***The Salt of the Earth***; the story of the real-life battle for civil rights by Hispanic miners. Part historical courtroom drama and part intimate biography, Director Karl Francis's film is a bittersweet testament to the achievements of Herbert and Gale Biberman. With Angela Molina (star of Pedro Almodovar's ***Live Flesh***, as Mexican actress Rosaura Revueltas).

Welcoming remarks: Aviva Kempner, Filmmaker

Advance Tickets/No Service Charge (but handling fees apply)

PROMISES

USA/Israel, 2000, 35mm

100 minutes

English, Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles

Directors: Justine Shapiro, B.Z. Goldberg, and Carlos Bolado

Sunday, December 2nd, 7:00pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater



The award-winning **Promises** documents the lives of Israeli and Palestinian children during a period of relative calm from 1997 to 2000. Through first hand interviews, Yarko, Daniel, Moishe, Mahmoud, Shlomo, Sanabel and Faraj,

all aged between 11 and 13, tell their stories of growing up amid conflict and violence. Deeply insightful and compassionate, directors Justine Shapiro, B.Z. Goldberg, and Carlos Bolado's film rises above the din of rhetoric, politics and jingoism, thus allowing these children to create and tell their own stories in a time when the need for voices and dialogue is more critical than ever.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel and National Institute for Jewish Leadership (NIJL)

Special Guest: B.Z. Goldberg, Director

RESISTANCE: UNTOLD STORIES OF JEWISH PARTISANS

USA, 2001, Video, 86 minutes

English and Hebrew with English Subtitles

Director: Seth Kramer

Producers: Kenneth Mandel, Daniel B. Polin

Tuesday, December 4th, 6:00pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater



The heroic story of Jewish Partisans fighting the Nazis in World War II is an often forgotten slice of 20th century history. In interviews with eleven Jewish Partisans, Director Seth Kramer's quietly powerful film,

Resistance: Untold Stories of Jewish Partisans, honors these young men and women and reveals the story of their dramatic fight for survival in the forests of Eastern Europe.

Special Guests: Seth Kramer, Director; Miles Lerman, Chairman Emeritus, US Holocaust Memorial Council and former member of a Jewish partisan unit that fought in the forests of southeastern Poland.

JEWISH BRIEFS I – A SHORTS PROGRAM

(This is not necessarily the order in which films will be presented)

Saturday, December 1st, 10:00pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater

Monday, December 3rd, 1:00pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater



GRIEF

Israel, 2000, 16mm, 22 minutes

Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Hadar Friedlich

A moving portrait of a Jerusalem taxi driver who, having just lost his only son, finds himself back at work as usual.



OFFSIDE

Israel, 2001, Video

22 minutes

Hebrew with English subtitles

Directors: Eliran Knoller and Amir Gilad

Shahar, a fresh faced army recruit, is confined to his base the weekend before his favorite soccer team plays for the championship. His best friend promises to call him from the game with a play-by-play update when the unexpected happens. Winner of the Wolfgang Award for best short film at the 2001 Jerusalem Film Festival.



PACKING FOR TWO

USA, 1999, 16mm, 13 minutes

English

Director: Lisa Kaufman

When choosing a travel companion, better it should be someone you like, who doesn't snore and isn't dead.



THE SEVENTH DAY

Argentina, 2000, 35mm, 14 minutes

Spanish with English subtitles

Director: Gabriel Lichtamann

As Matías readies for his Bar-Mitzvah, a severe rainstorm strikes Buenos Aires knocking out power and delaying his already anxious grandparents. They finally arrive at the synagogue, only to be stopped short by security.



THEY CAME TO PICK ME UP

France, 2000, 35mm, 23 minutes

French, Hebrew, Ladino and Turkish with

English subtitles

Director: Ilana Navaro

In director Ilana Navaro's sun-drenched short film, Julia is preparing to leave her beloved city of Istanbul to join her family in Tel Aviv. As she sorts through the odds and ends of years gone by, she discovers an old oil painting that's been divided into pieces of which she has one part. Unable to abandon her past, she embarks on a last minute search that soon uncovers more than just a missing artifact.



THREE KISSES

USA, 2000, 16mm, 7 minutes

English

Director: Johanna Hibbard

Set at a Jewish wedding, an Italian disco and on the streets of Spain, **Three Kisses** is an animated interlocking triptych structured like a kiss, with its approach, smack and release.

JEWISH BRIEFS II – A SHORTS PROGRAM

(This is not necessarily the order in which films will be presented)

Saturday, December 8th, 8:45pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater



THE BICYCLE

Israel, 2000, 16mm, 23 minutes

Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Ronen Menachem

Tom wants to fit in and coast around on a bicycle like the rest of his friends. But money is tight and his dad cannot afford a new bicycle. Rather than disappoint his son, his dad decides to get hold of a bike by another means. An homage to Vittorio De Sica's famous film, **The Bicycle Thief**.



EXPECTING

Israel, 2001, 16mm, 19 minutes

Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Sigalit Lipshtz

From the director of **Cockfight**, a favorite short from the 2000 WJFF, comes this pithy tale of teen drama. 17-year-old, rebellious Tzofia is afraid that she's pregnant. To add to her problems, Gila, her older sister, comes home for the weekend. Each sister does a home pregnancy test, but the results get mixed up.



GOOD MORNING CINDERELLA

Israel, 2001, Video, 24 minutes

Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Liora Belford

It seems that everyone has Ayelet's life figured out for her: whom she should marry, where she should work, and with whom she should live. Set to a blistering rave beat, director Liora Belford's film stars Liron Levo and Liat Glick-Levo from **Kippur** (2000 WJFF).



THE HANGED DOG TREE

Belgium, 2000, 35mm, 14 minutes

French with English subtitles

Director: Oliver van Malderghem

In this lyrical short film, survivors Zelda and Micha are reunited in Brussels after the war. Together they search for the trail that might lead them to their missing son.



MINUS-PLUS

Israel, 2001, 16mm, 20 minutes

Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Shahar Cohen

Shaul, a former guitarist and obsessive inventor, is torn between his love for his girlfriend Yael and the war against the electric company that cuts off the power to their house. (Note from 2001 Jerusalem Film Festival)



PASSENGERS

Canada, 2000, 35mm

15 minutes

English

Director: Francine Zuckerman

Evocative and poetic, **Passengers** is a subtle film that explores the relationship between a father and his daughter as she matures from childhood to adulthood.

SUMMER IN IVYE

USA, 2001, Video

72 minutes

English, Hebrew, Lithuanian, Polish and Russian with English subtitles

Directors: Tamar Rogoff and Daisy Wright

Sunday, December 9th, 2:45pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater



Summer In Ivye chronicles the events that took place during one remarkable summer when American choreographer Tamar Rogoff staged an international theater production in a forest outside a remote, dirt road village in Belarus. Bringing together an unlikely mix of actors, dancers, musicians and local townspeople, she created a performance that surrealistically echoed life in the once vibrant Jewish town before World War II. With warmth and humor, the film

captures the group's attempt to transcend differences in language, religion and culture in order to tell a moving story of love and loss. With original music by composer Frank London (of the Klezmer-fusion band, "The Klezmatics"), and performances by renowned Lithuanian actor Kostas Smoriginas and Yiddish theater veteran David Rogow.

Special guests: Tamar Rogoff and Daisy Wright, Directors

TAKING WING

France, 1999, 35mm

89 minutes

French with English subtitles

Director: Steve Suissa

Saturday, December 1st, 6:00pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater

Thursday, December 6th, 8:45pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater



The ruggedly handsome Clement Sibony stars as Stan Keller, a scrappy Parisian youth who is determined to become an actor. Defying his parents' wishes, Stan quits his job at the family butchery,

drops out of high school, and applies to a drama academy. His audition monologue, a matchless interpretation of Al Pacino's speech from *The Godfather Part II* ("Kay, did you think I'd let you take my children?"), wins him entry to the school but his travails have just begun. Director Steve Suissa's autobiographical film immerses the viewer in a world accented by the love of theater, film and the art of acting.

In cooperation with the Embassy of France and The Alliance Française de Washington, DC

Welcoming remarks: Laurent Mellier, Executive Director, The Alliance Française of Washington, DC

TIME OF FAVOR

Israel, 2000, 35mm

98 minutes

Hebrew with English subtitles

Director: Joseph Cedar

Tuesday, December 4th, 7:00pm

4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas



In this gripping film that won an amazing total of six Israeli Academy Awards including Best Picture, a plot is hatched that will inflame tensions in the holy city of Jerusalem.

Menachem, the commanding officer of an Orthodox soldier's combat unit, is unknowingly drawn into this web of intrigue. He finds himself torn between his loyalty to his rabbi (actor/director Assi Dayan), his duty as a commanding officer and his love for the rabbi's daughter (Israeli film sensation, Tinkerbell). Joseph Cedar's film provides a unique insight, from an Israeli filmmaker's perspective, of the complicated political landscape in today's Israel.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel

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

TREMBLING BEFORE G-D

Israel/USA/France, 2000, 35mm

94 minutes

English, Hebrew and Yiddish with English subtitles

Director: Sandi Simcha Dubowski

Sunday, December 9th, 3:15pm

4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas



Director Sandi Simcha Dubowski's taboo-shattering, Sundance Film Festival winner, **Trembling Before G-d**, is a measured and powerful documentary that, for the first time, brings to light the subject of homosexuality within the Orthodox Jewish community. Set in Brooklyn, Los Angeles, Miami, Jerusalem and San Francisco, Orthodox Gays and Lesbians speak about their struggles to integrate their deep love of Judaism with the biblical edict that forbids homosexuality.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel; in cooperation with Bet Mishpachah and Reel Affirmations, Washington, DC's International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

Special Guests: Sandi Simcha Dubowski, Director and Rabbi Steve Greenberg, the first openly gay Orthodox Rabbi

UNCLE CHATZKEL

Australia, 1999, Video

55 minutes

English, Lithuanian and Yiddish with English subtitles

Director: Rod Freedman

Sunday, December 2nd, 3:00pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater



Truth, it is said, is often more fantastic than fiction. Australian filmmaker Rod Freeman learned that this was truly the case when he rediscovered a long-forgotten great-uncle who was still living in his native Lithuania. 95 at the time of filming, Uncle Chatzkel had indeed lived a remarkable life, surviving exile and the Bolshevik Revolution, the Nazi invasion, the Holocaust and the anti-Semitism of the Communist post-war era and break-up. Amidst all of this he became a distinguished linguist and renowned Yiddish scholar. Freedman's film is a small treasure that knits a rich tapestry of history, family and reunion (Film note adapted from 2000 Festival of Jewish Cinema, Australia).

In cooperation with the Embassy of Australia, the Embassy of Lithuania

Welcoming Remarks: Dina Kopilevic, 3rd Secretary, the Embassy of Lithuania

with

STILL (STILLE)

Canada, 2000, Video

25 minutes

English subtitles

Director: Wendy Oberlander



Still (Stille) looks back to the world of assimilated European Jews during the 1930s. Sixty years after her mother's flight from Germany, director Wendy Oberlander returned with her mother to Berlin. This understated, yet powerful, short film transforms a collective of archival footage into an indelible montage of faces, piecing together the filmmaker's inheritance from her mother's story.

In cooperation with the Canadian Embassy

with

THE WALNUT TREE

Canada, 2000, 16mm

11 minutes

English

Director: Elida Schogt



Using photographs saved by her family as they fled Europe during the second World War, director Elida Schogt's film, **The Walnut Tree**, is a striking combination of documentary and experimental

approaches that examine the Holocaust, her family's survival and how photographs shape and create memory. The second in a trilogy from this young and sensitive filmmaker (**Zyklon Portrait** 2000 WJFF).

In cooperation with the Canadian Embassy

THE VOW

Poland, 1937, 35mm

82 minutes

Yiddish with English subtitles

Director: Henryk Szabo

Sunday, December 2nd, 5:00pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater

Wednesday, December 5th, 1:00pm



Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater

This classic tale of love, fate and mysticism is based upon the same legend as Ansky's "The Dybbuk." Two childhood friends make a sacred pact promising a marriage between their unborn children. Competing suitors and clashing ways of life nearly prevent the fulfillment of their vow, but the divine intervention of the prophet Elijah results in a happy ending. One of the last films produced in Europe before the Holocaust, the film captures authentic scenes of Jewish shtetl life, traditional folk melodies and Yiddish love songs.

WAITING FOR THE MESSIAH

Argentina, 2000, 35mm

97 minutes

Spanish with English subtitles

Director: Daniel Burman

Saturday, December 1st, 8:00pm

Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater

Monday, December 3rd, 7:00pm



4000 Wisconsin Avenue 6 Cinemas

*Set amidst Buenos Aires' Jewish porteño neighborhood of Once, **Waiting for the Messiah** is a delightful romantic comedy directed by Daniel Burman, one of the rising stars of Argentine cinema. Twenty-something Ariel is being groomed to inherit his father's kosher restaurant, marry a nice Jewish girl and settle down. Instead, Ariel abandons his close-knit community and takes a night job as a video editor at a cable network. At the same moment, Santamaría, a newly homeless bank employee tries to put his life back together after world stock markets plunge. Their lives overlap when Ariel's tempting bisexual co-worker, Laura, convinces him to work on a documentary about the banker's story. As his affection for Laura grows, Ariel finds himself drifting ever further from, Estela, his longtime neighborhood sweetheart.*

In cooperation with the Embassy of Argentina

*Welcoming Remarks: Rodolfo Cervino, Minister for Cultural Affairs,
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comforty@comforty.com

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They Came to Pick Me Up
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France
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Fax: 33-1-42-02-54-72
filmfish@club-internet.fr

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Johanna Hibbard
1304 SE Ash #E
Portland, OR 97214
Tel: 503-236-5373

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Fax: 718-488-8642

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Via Barnaba Oriana 254/A
Rome, RM 00197
Tel: 39-06-807-0400
Fax: 39-06-8068-7855
rgori@adrianachisela.it

The Walnut Tree
Women Make Movies
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By contributing at the Action Level or higher you will receive a pass to the 2002 Screening Room series at the DCJCC. The deadline for this offer is December 31st, 2001. Please make a tax-deductible contribution today.

Did you know...

In spite of our ever-growing audience, only 30% of our income comes from ticket sales. The Festival can only happen with generous support from private and corporate donations.

\$10,000 takes the Festival beyond one screen and across Washington by covering the costs of theater rentals, projectionist fees, and transporting films. Your support helps us expand screenings to the Lincoln Theatre, Foundry, Visions, and other venues.

\$5,000 brings international filmmakers, actors, or scholars to the Festival to answer questions from the audience. Your support makes it possible for someone like Agnieszka Holland, Moshe Ivgi or Michael Verhoeven to speak in person about their film.

\$2,500 helps fund the cost of putting together screenings and discussions with filmmakers and experts. Your support helps us host thought-provoking panels on such films as *Scottsboro: an American Tragedy*, *After the Truth*, and *Contemporary Issues in Israeli Cinema*.

\$1,000 brings a U.S.-based filmmaker or actor to the Festival to answer questions from the audience. Your support makes it possible for someone like John Turturro, Luv Ullman, Al Hirschfeld or Armin Mueller-Stahl to speak in person about their film.

\$500 supports free screenings by paying the cost of screening fees and other related costs. Your support helps make the Festival accessible to everyone by supporting free screenings at such venues as the National Gallery of Art and the Goethe-Institut Washington.

\$250 helps pay for shipping films from as far away as Israel, South Africa, and Europe. Your support allows us to draw from the best of international Jewish cinema.

Whatever you can afford to give, you are helping to enrich, explore and preserve our culture.

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*Listing as Presenting Sponsor for the Opening or Closing Night Film
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ACTION (\$250-499)

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NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 9, 2001

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