

 TJFF

Come for the drama.

Stay for the Romance, Comedy, Action and more.

**JEWISH
IS NOT
A GENRE.**

**Toronto
Jewish
Film
Festival**


June

4 — 14


**ONLINE
THROUGH
JUNE 23**

Ticket at TJFF.com

THURSDAY JUNE 4

7:30 PM HD Dust Bowls and Jewish Souls 

FRIDAY JUNE 5

1:00 PM LP Poland Versus History
w/ You Have Courage Madame 


1:00 PM VC The Safe House w/ Our Neighbour's Ass

SATURDAY JUNE 6

1:00 PM AG Free Country (A Tribute to Rob Reiner) FREE


3:30 PM AG Challenging Narratives: Voices of Protest in
Israeli Cinema  FREE



6:00 PM AG The Boys and Other Snapshots of
Jew-ish Toronto  FREE

9:15 PM EW Bookends w/ Beshert 



9:15 PM AG The Sea   

SUNDAY JUNE 7

2:00 PM EW Elena's War 

2:00 PM AG Surviving Malka Leifer  


4:00 PM CC Shooting w/ It Might Even be Real  

5:00 PM AG The Legend of Juan Jose Mundo  

5:00 PM EW Tovah w/ We Should Eat & The Stage Is Ours
When You Listen to this Song


7:00 PM CC w/ Call me Papa 

8:00 PM EW Mariana's Room


8:00 PM AG Oxygen 

MONDAY JUNE 8



2:30 PM CC Mariana's Room


5:00 PM LP The Dreamer 

5:30 PM CC One Street in Silwan w/ Children No More 


5:30 PM AG Sapiro v. Ford: The Jew Who Sued
Henry Ford  

8:00 PM AG I Draw Them The Best I Can w/ North of
Harbord, Tattoo & Today is a Gift 

8:00 PM LP Nandauri  




8:15 PM VC Cuz You're Ugly 

TUESDAY JUNE 9

2:30 PM CC New Yiddish Talkies: A Short Film
Programme  


3:00 PM LP Bella

5:00 PM CC A Shabbat on the Other Side of the River
w/ Mashhad  

5:15 PM LP Royal Swap   


7:30 PM VC Where To?

8:00 PM CC Brother Verses Brother

8:15 PM LP Frontier w/ See You Soon 



WEDNESDAY JUNE 10

2:30 PM CC Voyages

3:00 PM LP Shadow Murder: Among Enemies 

5:30 PM CC Maintenance Artist w/ Liorah

5:30 PM LP UNraveling UNRWA  

6:00 PM AG Kichka: Telling Myself  

8:00 PM CC Our Bodies & Other Shames w/ Tumtum



8:15 PM LP The Soundman


8:30 PM VC Bella


THURSDAY JUNE 11

2:00 PM LP Looking for Yadida
w/ No Witches in the Valley 

3:00 PM CC The Soundman

5:30 PM LP Labors of Love w/ That's How You
Make a Torah  

5:45 PM AG Holofiction 

6:00 PM CC If These Walls Could Rock 

8:15 PM HD Dead Language 

8:30 PM LP Rosenthal 

FRIDAY JUNE 12

1:00 PM LP Love, Statistically Speaking w/ Babka


1:00 PM VC Segal

SATURDAY JUNE 13

1:00 PM AG Life is Beautiful FREE
(Michel Kichka Carte Blanche)

4:00 PM AG Shared Memory: The Holocaust in
Popular Art  FREE

6:30 PM AG Bye Bye Braverman FREE

9:15 PM EW I Had The Heart 


9:15 PM AG Tell Me Everything 

SUNDAY JUNE 14


1:00 PM EW Daytrip  


1:00 PM CC Two Pianos

2:00 PM AG The First Lady  

5:00 PM EW Cabaret Total w/ The Things We Do for
Love and a Foreign Passport 

5:00 PM HD We Met at Grossinger's

8:00 PM HD You Had To Be There 

 = film shown both in-person and online

 = Q&A

 = ASL

 = Panel

ALL FILMS SHOWN IN THEIR ORIGINAL LANGUAGE. FILMS NOT IN ENGLISH ARE SHOWN WITH SUBTITLES.

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

ONLINE SCHEDULE

ALL FILMS RELEASED AT 12:01AM &
AVAILABLE FOR 72 HOURS

THURSDAY JUNE 11 - SATURDAY JUNE 13

Bookends w/ Beshert ♦

The Dreamer ♦

Shadow Murder: Among Enemies ♦


FRIDAY JUNE 12 - SUNDAY JUNE 14

Poland Versus History w/ You Have Courage Madame ♦

Surviving Malka Leifer ♦

UNraveling UNRWA ♦

SATURDAY JUNE 13 - MONDAY JUNE 15

Alex is Lovesick 

SUNDAY JUNE 14 - TUESDAY JUNE 16

Nandauri ♦

New Visions: A Collection of Israeli Short Films

Sapiro v. Ford: The Jew Who Sued Henry Ford ♦

MONDAY JUNE 15 - WEDNESDAY JUNE 17

Elena's War ♦

New Yiddish Talkies: A Short Film Programme ♦

The Sea ♦

TUESDAY JUNE 16 - THURSDAY JUNE 18

Frontier w/ See You Soon ♦

Royal Swap ♦

A Shabbat on the Other Side of the River w/ Mashhad ♦

WEDNESDAY JUNE 17 - FRIDAY JUNE 19

The Legend of Juan Jose Mundo ♦

Shooting w/ It Might Even Be Real ♦

When You Listen to this Song w/ Call Me Papa ♦

THURSDAY JUNE 18 - SATURDAY JUNE 20

The First Lady ♦

Looking for Yadida w/ No Witches in the Valley ♦

Rosenthal ♦

FRIDAY JUNE 19 - SUNDAY JUNE 21

1948 - Remember, Remember Not

If These Walls Could Rock ♦

Labors of Love w/ That's How You Make a Torah ♦

SUNDAY JUNE 21 - TUESDAY JUNE 23

Cabaret Total w/ The Things We Do for Love and a

Foreign Passport ♦

Daytrip ♦

I Had The Heart ♦

♦ = film shown both in-person and online

THE LOCATIONS

AG = The Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal JCC,
750 Spadina Ave (Spadina subway station)

CC = Imagine Cinemas Carlton, 20 Carlton St.
(College subway station)

EW = Cineplex Cinemas Empress Walk,
5095 Yonge St.
(North York Centre subway station)

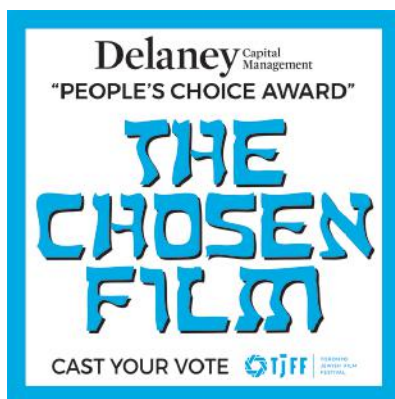
HD = Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema,
506 Bloor Street West
(Bathurst subway station)

LP = Leah Posluns Theatre, Prosserman JCC,
4588 Bathurst Street

VC = Cineplex Cinemas Varsity and VIP,
55 Bloor St. West (Bay subway station)



= TJFF Virtual Cinema
Stream at WATCH.TJFF.COM



PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

For the favourite film as chosen by Festival audiences. Vote for as many films as you like. Results announced following the Festival.

Sponsored by: **Delaney** Capital Management

ORDER TICKETS

Online anytime at TJFF.COM

By Phone at 416-324-9121

May 14 – June 3 12PM – 6PM

June 4 – June 20 12PM – 8PM

In-Person Advance Box Office - Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave

May 28 - June 4 12PM - 6PM

PRICES (HST included)

In-Theatre Tickets

Adult \$16.50 Advance / \$18 at Door

Senior \$15 Advance / \$17 at Door

Student \$15 Advance/ Free at Door*

Archival / Shorts Programme

\$11 Advance / \$13 at Door

Next Gen (35 and under) \$5 at Door only

(valid for NXTGN films only, ID required)

Opening Night \$25

Online Ticket \$18

FREE TICKETED SCREENINGS

All free screenings require tickets. Tickets may be ordered in advance at TJFF.COM or by phone at 416-324-9121. One ticket per person /per free in-person event.

PASSES

Flexible Passes: Redeemable for your choice of in-person/online screenings (excluding Opening Night). Maximum 2 tickets per in-person screening, subject to availability at time of redemption.

Flex 10 \$130

Flex 20 \$230

Online All Access Pass \$230

Access to watch all Festival screenings being presented online (as per Festival schedule).

* FREE STUDENT POLICY

Students with valid ID will be admitted for free at door, subject to availability (valid within one hour of event start time).

FOLLOW TJFF:



CHARITABLE REGISTRATION NO. 13522 6793 RR0001

ORDER A FREE TICKET NOW AT TJFF.COM/TEST

to configure your preferred viewing set-up:



THE STAGE IS OURS

UNITED STATES 2023, 9 MIN

DIRECTOR: MATT NADEL

Nearly 50 Jewish actors, playwrights, and directors gather at Broadway's Lyceum Theatre to reflect on the history and meaning of Jewish theatre.

Have more questions about how it all works?

Visit TJFF.COM/FAQ

ONLINE VIEWING OPTIONS

Watch on television using:



CHROMECAST



APPLE TV



ROKU



AIRPLAY

Or connect your computer/mobile device using an HDMI cable

- On your computer
- On your tablet
- On your smartphone



HDMI CABLE

NEED A LITTLE HELP?

TECH SUPPORT available at 416-324-9121

June 1 – June 10 12PM – 6PM

June 11 – June 20 12PM – 8PM



= In-Person screening



= Online screening



= FREE ticketed screening



= ASL - English interpretation for Q&A



= Programmer's Pick



= Closed Captioning for online English screenings



= Pride at TJFF



= Next Gen film selection



= Panel

• OPENING NIGHT FILM •

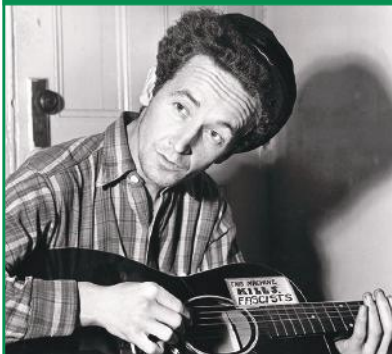


PHOTO CREDIT LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

DUST BOWLS AND JEWISH SOULS:

ANOTHER SIDE OF WOODY GUTHRIE

WORLD PREMIERE

UNITED STATES 2026, 89 MIN

DIRECTOR: STEVEN PRESSMAN

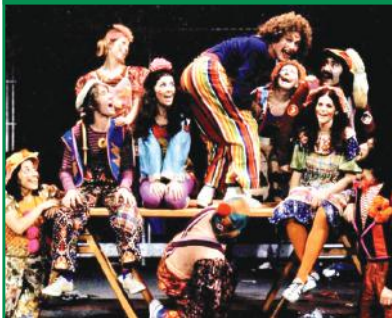


THURSDAY JUNE 4 • 7:30 PM • HD

Much is known about Woody Guthrie, the iconic folksinger who wrote “*This Land Is Your Land*” and influenced Bob Dylan. Less known is the role Jewish culture played in his life. This eye-opening and delightful documentary explores Guthrie’s marriage to Marjorie Greenblatt and his moving bond with his mother-in-law, Yiddish poet Aliza Greenblatt. Using revealing interviews and rich archival materials, the film links American Yiddishkeit to Guthrie’s artistic roots and legacy.

GUEST: DIRECTOR STEVEN PRESSMAN

• CLOSING NIGHT FILM •



YOU HAD TO BE THERE:



HOW THE TORONTO GODSPELL IGNITED THE COMEDY REVOLUTION, SPREAD LOVE & OVERALLS, AND CREATED A COMMUNITY THAT CHANGED THE WORLD (IN A CANADIAN KIND OF WAY)

UNITED STATES / CANADA 2025, 98 MIN

DIRECTOR: NICK DAVIS



SUNDAY JUNE 14 • 8:00 PM • HD

This intimate, hilarious, and moving documentary revisits the 1972 Toronto production of *Godspell*, which launched the careers of Eugene Levy, Martin Short, Gilda Radner, Andrea Martin and many others. Featuring cast interviews, rare archival materials and much more.

GUESTS TO BE ANNOUNCED

**ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE:
MICHEL KICHKA**



Michel Kichka was born in Belgium and moved to Jerusalem in 1974. A beloved cartoonist, he’s best known for the graphic novel *Second Generation: The Things I Didn’t Tell My Father*, where he asserts his own story as a child of Holocaust survivors.

Programmes:

Kichka: *Telling Myself* (p.11)

Life is Beautiful (Carte Blanche Screening) (p.12)

Shared Memory: The Holocaust in Popular Art (panel) (p.17)

Kichka will also participate in our Filmmatters student programme, where he will present *My Father’s Secrets*, the film adaptation of *Second Generation*.

An exhibition featuring samples of Michel Kichka’s work will be on display at the Miles Nadal JCC.



1948 - REMEMBER, REMEMBER NOT

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2023, 117 MIN

DIRECTOR: NETA SHOSHANI

FRIDAY JUNE 19 - SUNDAY JUNE 21

Neta Shoshani's meticulously-researched documentary examines the creation of Israel, from the UN partition to the end of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. Using archival footage, letters, and diaries from Jews and Arabs, it probes debates among researchers and archivists over preserving, challenging, and reshaping official narratives and collective memory of the war.



ALEX IS LOVESICK

ISRAEL 1986, 88 MIN

DIRECTOR: BOAZ DAVIDSON

SATURDAY JUNE 13 - MONDAY JUNE 15

TJFF presents the cult hit on its 40th anniversary, featuring Yosef Shiloah's iconic role as Farouk, a Mizrahi lodger chasing absurd baldness cures. Part of a popular cycle of broad Israeli comedies rooted in ethnic stereotypes, the film follows Alex, a pre-Bar Mitzvah teen in 1950s Tel Aviv, navigating family, love, and taboo experiences. (See also *The Dreamer* p.9)



BELLA

ISRAEL / BELGIUM 2025, 75 MIN

DIRECTORS: JAMAL KHALILAY & ZOHAR SHACHAR

TUESDAY JUNE 9 • 3:00 PM • LP

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10 • 8:30 PM • VC

Co-directed by an Israeli and a Palestinian filmmaker, *Bella* follows two friends on a chaotic road trip across Israel and the West Bank to retrieve a valuable dove. Filled with mishaps, the film uses gentle satire to explore the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, ultimately delivering a hopeful message of unity and understanding.

Co-produced by the internationally-acclaimed Dardenne Brothers.



BOOKENDS

CANADIAN PREMIERE

UNITED STATES 2026, 99 MIN

DIRECTOR: MIKE DOYLE

SATURDAY JUNE 6 • 9:15 PM • EW

THURSDAY JUNE 11 - SATURDAY JUNE 13

After a painful breakup, aspiring-writer Nate moves into a Jewish retirement community with his grandparents. Struggling at first with the slower lifestyle, he gradually finds inspiration. This heartwarming rom-com features standout performances from Oscar-winner F. Murray Abraham and Caroline Aaron (*The Marvelous Mrs Maisel*).
WITH: **BESHERT** (19 MIN)



THE BOYS AND OTHER SNAPSHOTS OF JEW-ISH TORONTO FREE

CANADA 1973-77, 75 MIN

DIRECTORS: BERNIE LIGHTMAN, ERIC WEINTHAL & ALAN ZWEIG

 **SATURDAY JUNE 6 • 6:00 PM • AG**

A trio of 1970s student films captures the hangouts and attitudes of secular Jewish youth around Bathurst Street. Alan Zweig's funny and introspective *The Boys* (1977), with Ralph Benmergui, follows dateless twenty-somethings hoping for connection. *Lawrence Plaza** (1973) depicts awkward college hookups, while Eric Weintahl's *Justice** (1974) tracks a gum theft that sparks a chase through Forest Hill.

* **Presented with live filmmaker commentary.**

GUESTS: ALAN ZWEIG, RALPH BENMERGUI, ERIC WEINTHAL AND MORE



BROTHER VERSES BROTHER NXTGN

ONTARIO PREMIERE

UNITED STATES 2025, 92 MIN

DIRECTOR: ARI GOLD

 **TUESDAY JUNE 9 • 8:00 PM • CC**

"Wondrously captivating... Fans of movies like *Once* will find plenty to love." (*Awards Buzz*). Twin musicians Ari and Ethan Gold, performing as The Brothers Gold, embark on a musical journey through San Francisco's North Beach searching for their missing father. Blending fiction and reality, and filmed in a single continuous take, *Brother Verses Brother* celebrates music, sibling rivalry, and the city itself. **Executive produced by Francis Ford Coppola.**



BYE BYE BRAVERMAN FREE

UNITED STATES 1968, 94 MIN

DIRECTOR: SIDNEY LUMET

 **SATURDAY JUNE 13 • 6:30 PM • AG**

George Segal stars in this funny and poignant comedy that follows four New York Jewish intellectuals and childhood friends as they navigate the streets of Brooklyn in a red Volkswagen on a journey to find the location of a friend's funeral. Director Sidney Lumet called it "the most personal picture I've ever made." The film also features Jack Warden, Jessica Walter and Alan King. (See *Segal*, p.16)




CABARET TOTAL

ISRAEL / KOSOVO 2024, 91 MIN

DIRECTOR: ROY ASSAF

 **SUNDAY JUNE 14 • 5:00 PM • EW**

 **SUNDAY JUNE 21 - TUESDAY JUNE 23**

Roy Assaf (*Matchmaking*) plays Assi, a cabaret performer, theatre instructor, and war veteran. After a comment he makes about the army is secretly filmed and goes viral, he faces a media and legal storm. In his narrative directorial debut, Assaf crafts a darkly comic portrait of a country grappling with trauma and deepening political polarization.

WITH: THE THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE AND A FOREIGN PASSPORT (15 MIN)



**CHALLENGING NARRATIVES:
VOICES OF PROTEST IN
ISRAELI CINEMA** FREE 🚫

🚗 **SATURDAY JUNE 6 • 3:30 PM • AG**

An exploration of the current political climate in Israel and how it shapes the work of filmmakers that engage with government and military policy, and life in the West Bank. International reception, including the impact of cultural boycotts, will also be addressed. Panelists include filmmakers Shai Carmeli Pollak (*The Sea*, p.16) and Netalie Braun (*Oxygen*, p.14 and *Shooting*, p.17), as well as Libby Lenkinski, Founder and Director of the Albi Film and Television Fund, Institute and Lab.



CUZ YOU'RE UGLY NXTGN

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL / CANADA 2025, 82 MIN
DIRECTOR: SHARON ANGELHART

🚗 **MONDAY JUNE 8 • 8:15 PM • VC**

Before she begins training to be a naval officer, Avigail plans to lose her virginity, but her sister's unexpected pregnancy disrupts her plans. Anchored by Riki Reif Sinai's **award-winning performance (Jerusalem Film Festival)**, this bold coming-of-age story explores insecurity, body image, and self-acceptance in the digital age, as Avigail struggles to discover beauty and confidence within herself.

GUEST: DIRECTOR SHARON ANGELHART



DAYTRIP

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2025, 75 MIN

DIRECTOR: RONI ABOULAFIA

🚗 **SUNDAY JUNE 14 • 1:00 PM • EW**

📺 **SUNDAY JUNE 21 - TUESDAY JUNE 23**

*** FINALIST ***
DAVID A. STEIN

After the Taliban's 2021 takeover of Afghanistan, Israeli-American journalist Danna Harman organized a daring rescue mission to evacuate threatened Afghan women. Using real text messages and on-the-ground footage, this suspenseful documentary follows activists coordinating minute-by-minute efforts to save lives, revealing a powerful story of courage, solidarity, and strangers working together when others would not.

GUESTS TO BE ANNOUNCED



DEAD LANGUAGE

ONTARIO PREMIERE

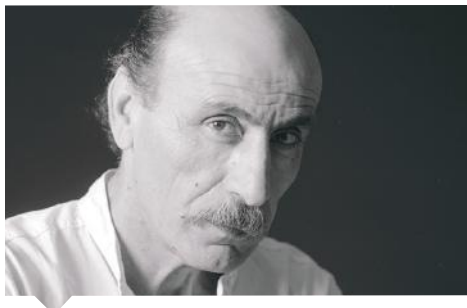
ISRAEL / CZECH REPUBLIC / POLAND 2025, 110 MIN

DIRECTORS: ODED BINNUN & MIHAL BREZIS

🚗 **THURSDAY JUNE 11 • 8:15 PM • HD**

Expanding their Oscar-nominated short, directors Mihal Brezis and Oded Binnun craft a feature about Aya, whose impulsive airport encounter with a Danish visitor awakens unexpected longing. As their brief connection lingers, it unsettles her carefully ordered life. **First premiering at Tribeca**, the film explores intimacy, chance, and desire through nuanced performances and subtle emotional shifts.

GUEST: CO-DIRECTOR MIHAL BREZIS



THE DREAMER

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2025, 108 MIN

DIRECTORS: MORRIS BEN-MAYOR, OMER SHILOAH & KOBI FARAG



MONDAY JUNE 8 • 5:00 PM • LP



THURSDAY JUNE 11 - SATURDAY JUNE 13

Beloved in Israel for roles in broad ethnic 'Bourekas' comedies, actor Yosef Shiloah was also a complex artist and activist who opposed discrimination and advocated for peace. Through his writings and rare footage filmed by his daughter, this documentary reveals the inner life of the iconic actor and offers a glimpse into a lesser-known chapter of Israeli film history. (See also *Alex Is Lovesick*, p.6)



ELENA'S WAR

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ITALY 2025, 98 MIN

DIRECTOR: STEFANO CASERTANO



SUNDAY JUNE 7 • 2:00 PM • EW



MONDAY JUNE 15 - WEDNESDAY JUNE 17

This historical drama recounts the true story of Elena Di Porto, a rebellious Jewish woman in Rome's ghetto during WWII. Defying fascism and social norms, she joined the resistance and tried to warn her community of a Nazi roundup, risking everything to save lives and leaving a lasting mark on Rome's Jewish history.



THE FIRST LADY

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL / GERMANY 2025, 82 MIN

DIRECTORS: SAGI BORNSTEIN & UDI NIR



SUNDAY JUNE 14 • 2:00 PM • AG



THURSDAY JUNE 18 - SATURDAY JUNE 20

"A masterful, striking, and breathtaking film" (*Mako*). *The First Lady* follows Efrat Tilma, one of Israel's first openly transgender women. After enduring violence and discrimination, she lived in European exile for decades before returning to Israel in 2005. The film traces her journey from underground clubs to prominent LGBTQ+ activist and police volunteer. "Direct, honest, funny, and painful." (*Time Out Tel Aviv*)

GUEST: EFRAT TILMA



FREE COUNTRY

A TRIBUTE TO ROB REINER

UNITED STATES 1978, 100 MIN

DIRECTORS: JAMES BURROWS & HAL COOPER



SATURDAY JUNE 6 • 1:00 PM • AG

TJFF presents a rare opportunity to see the late Rob Reiner's delightful and rarely-shown 1978 sitcom *Free Country*, a passion project he made right after *All In the Family*. Reiner stars as an 89-year-old Lithuanian-Jewish immigrant, recalling his younger self—also played by Reiner—on the Lower East Side at the turn of the last century.



FRONTIER

CANADIAN PREMIERE

SPAIN / BELGIUM 2025, 101 MIN

DIRECTOR: JUDITH COLELL

 **TUESDAY JUNE 9 • 8:15 PM • LP**

 **TUESDAY JUNE 16 - THURSDAY JUNE 18**

Set in 1943, Judith Colell's historical thriller follows civil servant Manel Grau, who defies orders to help Jews escape across the Pyrenees. As danger mounts, past wounds from the Spanish Civil War resurface. Stunningly shot against the haunting mountain landscape, *Frontier* explores courage, complicity, and moral choices during Nazi oppression.

WITH: **SEE YOU SOON** (14 MIN)



I DRAW THEM THE BEST I CAN

WORLD PREMIERE

CANADA 2026, 40 MIN

DIRECTORS: LIAM KARP & JAMIE MICHAELS

 **MONDAY JUNE 8 • 8:00 PM • AG**

Filmmakers Jamie Michaels (author of the graphic novel *Christie Pits*) and Liam Karp sensitively tell the story of Canadian Holocaust survivor Adam Policzer. When Germany invaded Hungary in 1944, Adam was hidden by neighbours and watched as his family was taken away. After being discovered, he began a remarkable journey of survival, later using comics and art to confront trauma and find healing.

GUESTS: DIRECTORS JAMIE MICHAELS & LIAM KARP

WITH: **NORTH OF HARBORD** (8 MIN), **TATTOO** (15 MIN), **TODAY IS A GIFT** (25 MIN)

• CENTREPIECE DOCUMENTARY •



HOLOFICTION 

FINALIST
DAVID A. STEIN

CANADIAN PREMIERE

GERMANY / AUSTRIA 2025, 102 MIN

DIRECTOR: MICHAL KOSAKOWSKI

 **THURSDAY JUNE 11 • 5:45 PM • AG**

Official Selection, Venice Film Festival.

Filmmaker Michal Kosakowski uses a montage of scenes from over 3,000 Holocaust dramas to create a spellbinding exploration of how cinema shapes collective memory. Without narration, this tour-de-force collage essay invites viewers to reflect on the gap between Claude Lanzmann's belief that fictional portrayals of the Holocaust are unethical and the thousands of cinematic depictions since 1938.

GUEST: DIRECTOR MICHAL KOSAKOWSKI



I HAD THE HEART

ARGENTINA 2024, 107 MIN

DIRECTORS: OLIVER KOLKER & HERNÁN FINDLING

 **SATURDAY JUNE 13 • 9:15 PM • EW**

 **SUNDAY JUNE 21 - TUESDAY JUNE 23**

A washed-up Buenos Aires rock producer finds hope in a stuttering mechanic with hidden tango talent. As they chase a surprising musical comeback, both seek redemption and a second chance. Featuring pop star Karina "La Princesita" and a vibrant tango soundtrack, the film celebrates reinvention through unlikely encounters and renewed purpose.



IF THESE WALLS COULD ROCK

UNITED STATES 2025, 93 MIN

DIRECTORS: TYLER MEASOM & CRAIG A. WILLIAMS

THURSDAY JUNE 11 • 6:00 PM • CC

FRIDAY JUNE 19 - SUNDAY JUNE 21

The untold story of The Sunset Marquis Hotel, West Hollywood's legendary rock-and-roll hideaway. Featuring Ringo Starr, Slash, Cyndi Lauper, Morrissey, and Dave Grohl, the film captures six decades of music, debauchery, and magic, while revealing the deeper story of founder George Rosenthal, a Depression-era Jewish dreamer, and his son Mark.



KICHKA: TELLING MYSELF

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2025, 67 MIN

DIRECTOR: GAD AISEN

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10 • 6:00 PM • AG

Belgian-Israeli cartoonist Michel Kichka (TJFF2026 Artist-in-Residence, see p.5), a second-generation Holocaust survivor, explores memory, trauma, and family history with humour and clarity. Through interviews, archival footage, and animation, Gad Aisen shows how Kichka engages with past and present—including October 7—demonstrating how art confronts difficult histories, bears witness, and helps society process ongoing realities.

SCREENING FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION WITH MICHEL KICHKA AND DIRECTOR GAD AISEN



LABORS OF LOVE: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HENRIETTA SZOLD

ONTARIO PREMIERE

UNITED STATES 2025, 78 MIN

DIRECTOR: ABBY GINZBERG

THURSDAY JUNE 11 • 5:30 PM • LP

FRIDAY JUNE 19 - SUNDAY JUNE 21

Abby Ginzberg's award-winning documentary chronicles Henrietta Szold, a Baltimore rabbi's daughter who overcame gender and religious barriers to become a global Jewish leader. The founder of Hadassah, she built health and social services in British-Mandate Palestine, championed Jewish-Arab equality and led Youth Aliyah, rescuing thousands of Jewish children from Nazi-occupied Europe.

GUEST: DIRECTOR ABBY GINZBERG

WITH: **THAT'S HOW YOU MAKE A TORAH** (10 MIN)



THE LEGEND OF JUAN JOSE MUNDO

NXTGN

CANADIAN PREMIERE

UNITED STATES 2025, 92 MIN

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL WALKER

SUNDAY JUNE 7 • 5:00 PM • AG

WEDNESDAY JUNE 17 - FRIDAY JUNE 19

Fans of John Hughes films will enjoy this 1980s throw-back featuring an awesome soundtrack. When Julie Gornick (Toronto's own Anna Mirodin) hosts a charming Spanish exchange student, she falls for him instantly. Encouraged by her best friend, Julie joins the popular crowd—many already seduced by Juan—hoping to win his affection in this authentic, autobiographical teen story.

GUEST: STAR ANNA MIRODIN



LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

MICHEL KICHKA CARTE BLANCHE FREE

ITALY 1997, 116 MIN

DIRECTOR: ROBERTO BENIGNI

SATURDAY JUNE 13 • 1:00 PM • AG

TJFF 2026 Artist-in-Residence, Belgian-Israeli cartoonist Michel Kichka presents a special screening of Roberto Benigni's Oscar-winning *Life is Beautiful*. Blending comedy and tragedy, it follows Guido, a father shielding his son from a Nazi camp's horrors through imagination. Once both acclaimed and debated, the film invites a fresh reassessment today.

GUEST: MICHEL KICHKA



LOOKING FOR YADIDA

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2026, 64 MIN

DIRECTOR: ISRAELA SHAER MEODED

THURSDAY JUNE 11 • 2:00 PM • LP

THURSDAY JUNE 18 - SATURDAY JUNE 20

Director Israela Shaer Meoded investigates the 1950's disappearance of her aunt as an infant from a Yemeni immigrant camp, one of hundreds of missing Mizrahi babies. Through archives and testimonies, *Looking for Yadida* exposes decades of denial, systemic discrimination, and the enduring pain of families seeking truth about this unresolved chapter in Israel's history.

WITH: NO WITCHES IN THE VALLEY (13 MIN)



LOVE, STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

ISRAEL 2026, 90 MIN

DIRECTOR: AMICHAH GREENBERG

FRIDAY JUNE 12 • 1:00 PM • LP

In this charming whodunnit comedy, 80-year-old actuary Reuben investigates his wife's sudden death and missing poolside cash. With his free-spirited granddaughter's help, their investigation reveals far more than the culprit. **Directed by Amichai Greenberg** (*The Testament*, TJFF2018) and **starring Israeli legend Yehoram Gaon**, the film celebrates family, connection, and the joy of embracing life's unpredictability.

WITH: BABKA (17 MIN)



MAINTENANCE ARTIST

UNITED STATES 2025, 95 MIN

DIRECTOR: TOBY PERL FREILICH

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10 • 5:30 PM • CC

Official Selection at the 2025 Tribeca Film Festival and the 2026 Hotdocs Festival. An exploration of artist and mother Mierle Laderman Ukeles, who challenged male-dominated avant-garde traditions by elevating unseen maintenance work—childcare and custodial labour—into sacred artistic expression. Tracing her life and career (including her residency with the New York City Sanitation Department), this “**visually explosive portrait**” (*NBC New York*) also captures the evolution of the New York art scene over the course of her career.

WITH: LIORAH (5 MIN)



MARIANA'S ROOM

ONTARIO PREMIERE

FRANCE / ISRAEL / HUNGARY / BELGIUM 2025, 130 MIN
DIRECTOR: EMMANUEL FINKIEL

SUNDAY JUNE 7 • 8:00 PM • EW

MONDAY JUNE 8 • 2:30 PM • CC

An elegant adaptation of Aharon Appelfeld's award-winning 2006 novel *Blooms of Darkness*. Twelve-year-old Hugo is taken in by his mother's friend, Mariana (Mélanie Thierry), a beautiful sex worker at a brothel in WWII Ukraine frequented mostly by German soldiers. Director Emmanuel Finkiel (*Voyages*, p.19) delivers a complex and visually-rich coming-of-age drama.



NANDAURI

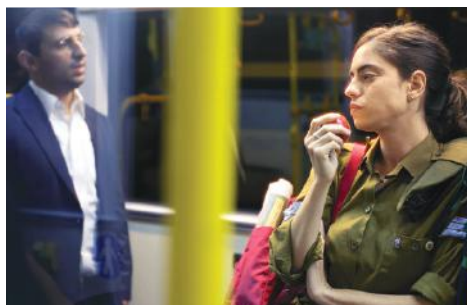
ISRAEL / GEORGIA / ITALY 2025, 93 MIN
DIRECTOR: ETI TSICKO

MONDAY JUNE 8 • 8:00 PM • LP

SUNDAY JUNE 14 - TUESDAY JUNE 16

Winner of five Ophir Awards (Israeli Academy Awards), this gripping drama stars Neta Riskin (*Shtisel*) as Marina, a lawyer returning to her Georgian village to represent a mother reclaiming the son she left behind. Facing hostility and buried memories, Marina confronts her past as tensions reveal unspoken desires, cultural divides, and the fragile possibility of reconciliation and forgiveness.

GUEST: DIRECTOR ETI TSICKO



NEW VISIONS: A COLLECTION OF ISRAELI SHORT FILMS

NXTGN

ISRAEL 2025, 86 MIN
DIRECTORS: VARIOUS

SUNDAY JUNE 14 - TUESDAY JUNE 16

From delicate romance to slapstick and mordant humour, this collection of short films by emerging Israeli directors showcases distinct voices. Featuring filmmakers including writer Eden Abitbol (*The New Black*) and actress Moran Rosenblatt (*Wedding Doll*) in their directorial debuts, these stories explore unexpected encounters in a divided society, sibling rivalry, and young love confronting mortality.



NEW YIDDISH TALKIES: A SHORT FILM PROGRAMME

2022-26, 93 MIN

DIRECTORS: VARIOUS

TUESDAY JUNE 9 • 2:30 PM • CC

MONDAY JUNE 15 - WEDNESDAY JUNE 17

A religious woman disguises herself as a man to take a tango lesson in a 1915 Buenos Aires brothel; an idealistic Israeli dreams of Russian Yiddish poet Peretz Markish during an air raid siren; and more. This eclectic shorts programme showcases new films from Argentina, the United States, Sweden, and Israel, that highlight the Yiddish language.

GUESTS: PROFESSOR ANNA SHTERNSHIS AND DIRECTOR ELAZAR FINE (*THE CHOSEN ONE*)



ONE STREET IN SILWAN

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2025, 52 MIN.

DIRECTOR: BISSAN TIBI

MONDAY JUNE 8 • 5:30 PM • CC

This eye-opening documentary explores life on Batan al-Hawa Street in Silwan, East Jerusalem, where Israeli settlers live beside Palestinians facing eviction. Through residents' and children's perspectives, it reveals daily tensions, offering a human portrait of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict as competing histories, identities, and claims collide in everyday life.

GUEST: EDITOR SHAI CARMELI-POLLAK

WITH: CHILDREN NO MORE: WERE AND ARE GONE (36 MIN)



OUR BODIES & OTHER SHAMES

NXTGN

CANADIAN PREMIERE

UNITED STATES 2025, 87 MIN

DIRECTOR: JENNY LESTER

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10 • 8:00 PM • CC

Once inseparable childhood friends from Hebrew school, Sheva, Sarah, and Tali reunite a decade after a falling-out for one night in Brooklyn, reviving buried tensions. Moving across three life stages, the film traces how their bond unraveled, forcing them to confront the truth behind their estrangement. **A Sundance Lab finalist.**

WITH: TUMTUM (15 MIN)

• CENTREPIECE DRAMA •



OXYGEN

ONTARIO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2025, 95 MIN

DIRECTOR: NETALIE BRAUN

SUNDAY JUNE 7 • 8:00 PM • AG

“The best Israeli movie of 2025” (*Ha'aretz*). Winner of the top prize at the Jerusalem Film Festival, *Oxygen* follows single mother Anat, who eagerly awaits her son's army discharge. When war erupts and he secretly volunteers to keep fighting, she questions her beliefs and fights to bring him home. Anchored by Dana Ivgy's powerful performance, the film explores motherhood, loyalty, and the Israeli mother–soldier bond.

GUEST: DIRECTOR NETALIE BRAUN



POLAND VERSUS HISTORY

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

FRANCE / POLAND 2025, 70 MIN

DIRECTOR: JOANNA GRUDZINSKA

FRIDAY JUNE 5 • 1:00 PM • LP

FRIDAY JUNE 12 - SUNDAY JUNE 14

Joanna Grudzinska's documentary examines the controversy sparked by Jan T. Gross's book *Neighbours*, which argued that Polish townspeople—not Nazis—carried out the 1941 Jedwabne pogrom killing 1,600 Jews. Featuring historical evidence and testimony, the film explores the fierce debate that followed, exposing tensions between national memory, denial, and Poland's history of antisemitism.

WITH: YOU HAVE COURAGE, MADAME (27 MIN)





ROSENTHAL

ONTARIO PREMIERE

GERMANY 2025, 92 MIN

DIRECTOR: OLIVER HAFFNER

THURSDAY JUNE 11 • 8:30 PM • LP

THURSDAY JUNE 18 - SATURDAY JUNE 20

This real-life period drama follows Hans Rosenthal, a beloved German game-show host and Holocaust survivor. When a live broadcast coincides with the 40th anniversary of Kristallnacht, he faces a painful choice between hosting his show or attending Germany's first memorial. Confronting buried trauma and public expectations, tensions arise between fame, memory, and moral responsibility.



ROYAL SWAP

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2025, 90 MIN

DIRECTOR: DUKI DROR

TUESDAY JUNE 9 • 5:15 PM • LP

TUESDAY JUNE 16 - THURSDAY JUNE 18

Director Duki Dror's (*Inside the Mossad*, TJFF2019) documentary tells the extraordinary story of two women—Dina Abdul Hamid, former Queen of Jordan, and Iris, the wife of an Israeli hostage—whose husbands disappear during the 1982 Lebanon War. From opposite sides of the conflict, their determined search for answers leads them to become key figures in negotiating a prisoner exchange.

GUEST: DIRECTOR DUKI DROR



THE SAFE HOUSE

ONTARIO PREMIERE

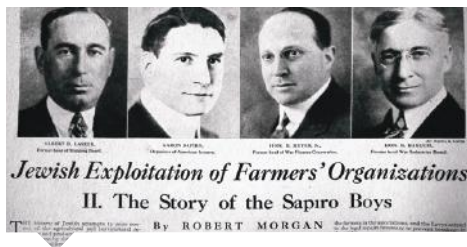
SWITZERLAND/LUXEMBOURG/FRANCE 2025, 90 MIN

DIRECTOR: LIONEL BAIER

FRIDAY JUNE 5 • 1:00 PM • VC

Adapted from Christophe Boltanski's award-winning memoir, *The Safe House* follows a nine-year-old boy in Paris during the May 1968 protests. When his free-spirited Jewish family shelters an unexpected guest, humour and memory intertwine. Featuring Michel Blanc's final role, it blends whimsical visuals, vibrant jazz, and reflections on history and family.

WITH: OUR NEIGHBOUR'S ASS (13 MIN)



SAPIRO V. FORD: THE JEW WHO SUED HENRY FORD

CANADIAN PREMIERE

UNITED STATES 2026, 68 MIN

DIRECTOR: GAYLEN ROSS

MONDAY JUNE 8 • 5:30 PM • AG

SUNDAY JUNE 14 - TUESDAY JUNE 16

The little-known story of Aaron Sapiro's landmark 1920s libel suit against Henry Ford after Ford's newspaper, *The Dearborn Independent*, spread antisemitic smears against him. Using archival material, interviews with historians, and actor Ben Shenkman (*Billions*) reading Sapiro's words, the film examines one of America's earliest hate-speech trials and its relevance to modern prejudice and propaganda.

GUESTS: DIRECTOR GAYLEN ROSS AND PRODUCER CAROL KING



THE SEA 🍷

TORONTO PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2025, 93 MIN

DIRECTOR: SHAI CARMELI-POLLAK



SATURDAY JUNE 6 • 9:15 PM • AG 🍷



MONDAY JUNE 15 - WEDNESDAY JUNE 17

Winner of five Ophir Awards including Best Film and Israel's Oscar submission, this poignant drama follows 12-year-old Khaled, who sets out alone to see the Mediterranean after soldiers block his school trip. Lost and unable to speak Hebrew, he faces danger while his undocumented father risks arrest searching for him. "A moving father-son tale in the vein of *Bicycle Thieves*." Alissa Simon (*Variety*)

GUEST: DIRECTOR SHAI CARMELI-POLLAK



SEGAL

UNITED STATES 2025, 113 MIN

DIRECTORS: VERNON DAVIDSON & RYAN KRAYSER



FRIDAY JUNE 12 • 1:00 PM • VC

This lively documentary celebrates the life of actor George Segal, tracing his journey from childhood in Long Island to a career spanning Hollywood's most turbulent eras.

Through Segal's own stories, film clips, and interviews with friends and colleagues—such as Elliot Gould and David O. Russell—the film offers a humorous and revealing portrait of a beloved performer. (See *Bye Bye Braverman*, p.7)



A SHABBAT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER

CANADIAN PREMIERE

BRAZIL 2026, 70 MIN

DIRECTOR: DIEGO LAJST



TUESDAY JUNE 9 • 5:00 PM • CC



TUESDAY JUNE 16 - THURSDAY JUNE 18

An exploration of the little-known migration of Moroccan Jews to the Brazilian Amazon during the 19th-century rubber boom. Drawn by economic opportunity, families built river communities while preserving traditions. Through personal stories and rare historical material, the film reveals a remarkable chapter of Brazilian Jewish history and Diaspora resilience.

GUEST: DIRECTOR DIEGO LAJST

WITH: MASHHAD (20 MIN)



SHADOW MURDER: AMONG ENEMIES

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

GERMANY 2025, 87 MIN

DIRECTORS: DAMIR LUKACEVIC & RAQUEL STERN



WEDNESDAY JUNE 10 • 3:00 PM • LP



THURSDAY JUNE 11 - SATURDAY JUNE 13

Filmmaker Damir Lukacevic and writer Raquel Stern craft a suspenseful and timely crime drama. After officer Nadirah Abaza helps arrest a drug boss, her mentor, prosecutor Frank Leuw, is murdered. With a rabbi's help, she uncovers missing evidence, an unsolved killing, and links to right-wing extremist networks.



SHARED MEMORY: FREE

THE HOLOCAUST IN POPULAR ART

SATURDAY JUNE 13 • 4:00 PM • AG

A panel exploring how Holocaust memory is conveyed through popular visual artworks, addressing ethical representation, trauma depiction, and audience impact. Panelists include TJFF2026 Artist-in-Residence, Michel Kichka, author of the graphic novel, *Second Generation: The Things I Didn't Tell My Father*; Michal Kosakowski, director of *Holofiction* (see p.10) and Bernice Eisenstein, author of *I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors*.



SHOOTING

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL 2025, 76 MIN

DIRECTOR: NETALIE BRAUN

SUNDAY JUNE 7 • 4:00 PM • CC

WEDNESDAY JUNE 17 - FRIDAY JUNE 19

Winner of Best Israeli Film at the 2025 Docaviv Film Festival. Netalie Braun explores how cinema can be weaponized in Israeli society. Three true stories—a military reenactment displacing a village, a staged police raid threatening a Palestinian family, and a haunted military props supplier—reveal chilling collisions between fiction and real lives.

GUEST: DIRECTOR NETALIE BRAUN

WITH: IT MIGHT EVEN BE REAL (7 MIN)



THE SOUNDMAN

ONTARIO PREMIERE

BELGIUM / NETHERLANDS 2025, 118 MIN

DIRECTOR: FRANK VAN PASSEL

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10 • 8:15 PM • LP

THURSDAY JUNE 11 • 3:00 PM • CC

Official Selection, Palm Springs International Film Festival.

Set in 1940 Brussels, *The Soundman* follows Berre, a devoted radio sound engineer, and Elza, a Jewish actress threatened by Nazi persecution. Their brief romance unfolds amid growing danger and deportations. Blending history with poetry, the film celebrates the golden age of radio and portrays sound, imagination, and love as quiet acts of resistance.



SURVIVING MALKA LEIFER

CANADIAN PREMIERE

AUSTRALIA 2025, 94 MIN

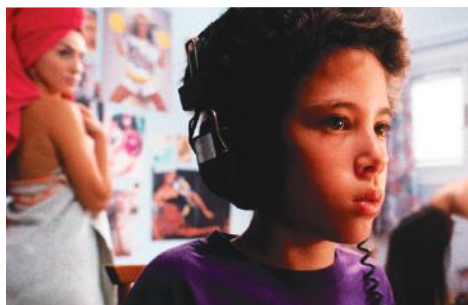
DIRECTOR: ADAM KAMIEN

SUNDAY JUNE 7 • 2:00 PM • AG

FRIDAY JUNE 12 - SUNDAY JUNE 14 CC

This edge-of-your-seat documentary recounts the 15-year struggle of Melbourne sisters Dassi, Nicole, and Elly to bring their former school principal Malka Leifer to justice after alleging sexual abuse in their ultra-Orthodox school. As Leifer flees to Israel, the sisters confront secrecy, political interference, and legal obstacles, exposing institutional silence while transforming their trauma into a determined pursuit of justice.

GUEST TO BE ANNOUNCED



TELL ME EVERYTHING **NXTGN**

CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL / FRANCE 2026, 109 MIN

DIRECTOR: MOSHE ROSENTHAL

SATURDAY JUNE 13 • 9:15 PM • AG

Filmmaker Moshe Rosenthal (*Karaoke*) crafts a “captivating, deeply moving father-son story.” (Sundance Film Festival)

Set during the late 1980s as paranoia regarding HIV was rampant, the film follows 12-year-old Boaz as a painful secret shatters his view of his father. Nearing his bar mitzvah, he struggles with identity, masculinity, and family, embarking on a years-long journey to heal their bond in this poignant coming-of-age story.

GUEST: DIRECTOR MOSHE ROSENTHAL



TOVAH

CANADIAN PREMIERE

UNITED STATES 2026, 60 MIN

DIRECTOR: DAVID SERERO

SUNDAY JUNE 7 • 5:00 PM • EW

This documentary celebrates Tovah Feldshuh's five-decade career across stage, film, and television, most recently in Netflix's hit series *Nobody Wants This*.

Featuring interviews with Oscar Isaac, Dustin Hoffman, and Patti LuPone, it explores her portrayals of iconic Jewish women, her Broadway legacy, and her lasting influence telling powerful female stories.

WITH: WE SHOULD EAT (9 MIN), THE STAGE IS OURS (8 MIN)



TWO PIANOS

FRANCE 2025, 115 MIN

DIRECTOR: ARNAUD DESPLECHIN

SUNDAY JUNE 14 • 1:00 PM • CC

After years in exile, pianist Mathias Vogler returns to Lyon for farewell concerts with his mentor, Elena (Charlotte Rampling). His homecoming revives a past affair with his best friend's wife. Meeting her child who resembles him, he unravels as memory, guilt, and identity blur in this haunting melodrama from French auteur Arnaud Desplechin.



UNRAVELING UNRWA



CANADIAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL / GERMANY 2025, 75 MIN

DIRECTOR: DUKI DROR

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10 • 5:30 PM • LP

FRIDAY JUNE 12 - SUNDAY JUNE 14

Winner, Jury Award for Best Film, Paris Israeli Film Festival.

Duki Dror's investigative documentary explores the 75-year history of UNRWA, examining how the agency aiding Palestinian refugees became a controversial institution. Using archives and testimony, it revisits criticisms of its structure and political role, especially after October 7 allegations involving UNRWA staff, raising questions about humanitarian aid, responsibility, and whether the agency still fulfills its original mission.



VOYAGES

FRANCE / BELGIUM / POLAND 1999, 111 MIN

DIRECTOR: EMMANUEL FINKIEL

 **WEDNESDAY JUNE 10 • 2:30 PM • CC**

Spanning Poland, Paris, and Tel Aviv, the debut feature of Emmanuel Finkel (*Mariana's Room*, p.13) interweaves the stories of three women shaped by trauma. Authentically written and acted, it explores the emotional lives of Holocaust survivors as they struggle to make peace with their uprooted pasts before it's too late.



WE MET AT GROSSINGER'S

ONTARIO PREMIERE

UNITED STATES 2025, 104 MIN

DIRECTOR: PAULA EISELT

 **SUNDAY JUNE 14 • 5:00 PM • HD**

This vibrant documentary explores the legendary Catskills resort Grossinger's, built when Jews faced exclusion from American hotels and clubs. Led by pioneering hotelier Jennie Grossinger and her family, the resort welcomed celebrities, athletes, and politicians. Through archival footage and interviews, the film traces its rise, decline, and lasting influence on Jewish-American identity and culture.



WHEN YOU LISTEN TO THIS SONG

NORTH AMERICAN ENGLISH PREMIERE

FRANCE 2025, 54 MIN

DIRECTOR: MONA ACHACHE

 **SUNDAY JUNE 7 • 7:00 PM • CC**

 **WEDNESDAY JUNE 17 - FRIDAY JUNE 19**

Based on Lola Lafon's book, this moving documentary follows the author spending a night in the Anne Frank House, reflecting on Frank's life and legacy. Through archival footage, evocative montage, and shifting perspectives, the film explores memory, Jewish identity, and antisemitism, re-examining Anne Frank beyond myth to reveal the human story behind the symbol.

WITH: **CALL ME PAPA: THE LETTERS OF OTTO FRANK** (21 MIN)



WHERE TO?

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

ISRAEL / GERMANY 2026, 95 MIN

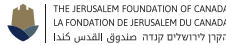
DIRECTOR: ASSAF MACHNES

 **TUESDAY JUNE 9 • 7:30 PM • VC**

A "hidden gem" (*Hollywood Reporter*) from the 2026 **Berlinale Film Festival**. *Where To?* follows Hassan, a Palestinian Uber driver, and Amir, a young Israeli, who form a bond through repeated rides in Berlin. Set mostly inside a car, the film explores displacement, identity, and trauma, as their evolving, father-son-like connection leads both men to confront unresolved relationships and personal histories.

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