

2nd
Annual

HOUSTON
JEWISH
film festival

March 16 – March 26, 2006



WOW!!!

We can't believe that a year has gone by and we are now welcoming you to our Second Annual Houston Jewish Film Festival. The Jewish Community Center of Houston and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston are thrilled at how successful our first collaborative venture proved to be, and so it is with great pride that we present a fresh group of fabulous films! These films bring a striking diversity of perspectives to enduring themes of the Jewish artistic tradition. Once again we have traveled the globe (figuratively) to bring you film offerings from Israel, USA, France, Germany, Hungary, Spain and the United Kingdom.

We invite you to join us on our ten-day journey of thirteen wonderful new movies... a pot-pourri of drama, comedy, new views and documentaries depicting the rich and exuberant moments of Jewish life.

Among the highlights will be the following: comedy and music will abound with such films as *Go For Zucker*, a madcap adventure about a German Jewish family; *A Cantor's Tale*, a loving tribute to a golden age when cantorial art reached its zenith; *The First Time I Was Twenty* (and the first time shown in Texas), a Parisian set comedy-drama about a teenage girl who wants to be like one of the lads. Among the highlights of the dramas are *Live and Become* the story of a Christian Ethiopian boy adjusting to life in Israel as a Jew and *Keep Not Silent*, an Israeli documentary that explores the often unspoken subject of lesbianism and Orthodox Jews. Another Texas Premier in perfect time before Passover is Salvador Litvak's *When Do We Eat?*, the "gleefully irreverent farce" in which a Passover Seder is enlivened by an ecstasy tablet that convinces a strict father that he is an American Moses whose mission is to lead his family to a new promised land.

All in all it's a collection of work from exceptionally talented filmmakers. Their stories together create a fascinating tapestry we hope you'll enjoy on this compelling journey at the 2006 Houston Jewish Film Festival.

We are grateful for the generosity of our supporters who have enabled us to present this event and for the creative collaboration of the staff and volunteers of both the JCC and the MFAH who have worked diligently to produce a topnotch Jewish Film Festival.

Doreen Joffe
Co-Chair

Sharon Kagan
Co-Chair

TICKET INFORMATION



Individual Tickets

\$6 JCC Members & MFAH Film Buffs

\$8 Public

Receive two films for FREE with a Festival Pass

\$66 JCC Members & MFAH Film Buffs

\$88 Public

The box office will open 30 minutes prior to each screening.
To purchase a festival pass visit www.Jcchouston.org or call 713-551-7255.

2006 Houston Jewish Film Festival Committee

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Sharon Kagan
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OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

A CANTOR'S TALE

Thursday, March 16 • JCC
7:00 p.m. Cocktail Reception
8:15 p.m. Movie

Director: Erik Greenberg Anjou
USA, 2005, 95 min., English



A Cantor's Tale is a loving tribute to a Golden Age in American Jewish life when chazzanut--the celebrated cantorial art--reached its zenith: when renowned cantors made best-selling recordings and attracted followers who would travel miles to hear their dizzying cantillations spilling from the windows of crowded synagogues. The film's spine is the journey of the engaging Jack Mendelson, who as the pudgy, streetwise son of a deli owner was influenced by his mother's passion for chazzanut. Her regular field trips to hear the great cantors of New York seemed almost to predestine Jack and his brother to become cantors themselves. Today Jack is the president of the Cantors Assembly, demonstrating to young cantors-in-training the vocal nuances, unlearnable on the page, that connect them to the great vocal traditions of Eastern European sacred music.

Reception and movie \$18.00

Movie only \$6 JCC Member / \$8 Public.

Director Erik Greenberg Anjou in attendance

Sponsored by David Mitzner, Ira and Mindy Mitzner, and Family

BE' TAY AVON SENIOR ADULT LUNCH PROGRAM

A CANTOR'S TALE

Friday, March 17 • 1:00 p.m.

Come have lunch and a movie with the Be' tay Avon crowd.

The movie will be *A Cantor's Tale* (see above description). Movie open to all.

RSVP for lunch by Thursday, March 16, 12 noon at 713-729-3200 ext. 3258.
Lunch and Movie \$6 JCC member / \$8 Public.

LIVE AND BECOME - Premiere Screening

Saturday, March 18 • 7:30 p.m. • MFAH

Sunday, March 19 • 3:00 p.m. • MFAH

Director: Radu Mihaileanu

France, Belgium, Israel, Italy, 2005, 140 min.

Hebrew, French and Amharic with English subtitles



Winner of the Audience Award at the 2005 Berlin

International Film Festival, *Live and Become* is the emotional story of one boy's chance survival amidst the Ethiopian famine of the mid-1980s. A mother conspires to place her seven-year-old non-Jewish son with a group of Falashas (Ethiopian Jews) bound for Israel as part of "Operation Moses." Her parting words to her child are that he should never tell anyone his true identity. And so, the child (Sirak Sabahat) grows up pretending to be both Jewish and an orphan in modern Israel, where he embraces Judaism and Western values but also feels the sting of racism. Though he maintains his secret, the tension between his truth and the reality of his situation builds to an emotional climax.



METALLIC BLUES - Premiere Screening

Sunday, March 19 • 5:30 p.m. • MFAH

Director: Danny Verete

Israel, Canada, Germany, 2004, 90 min.,
English, Hebrew and German with English subtitles

Metallic Blues is a touching and amazing tragicomic road-movie about two Israeli car dealers who risk it all in search of a better life, only to find out the most unexpected personal and historical truths. The opportunity of a lifetime has crossed paths with Shmuel and Siso; or so they think. They invest \$5,000 in a vintage 1985 Lincoln Continental Limousine and plan to sell it in Germany for \$50,000. They ship the car to Germany, and bring themselves and their dreams to Hamburg where their nightmare begins. Meanwhile, Shmuel experiences a very disturbing hallucination. The family stories of the Holocaust are taking over his mind... A film about friendship and reconciliation surrounded with the memories of the dark days in the history of Germany and Israel.

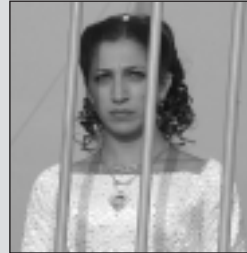
SYRIAN BRIDE - Premiere Screening

Sunday, March 19 • 7:15 p.m. • MFAH

Director: Eran Riklis

Israel, France, Germany, 2004, 93 min.,
Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles

Mona's wedding day is the saddest day of her life. She knows that once she crosses the border between Israel and Syria to marry Syrian TV star Tallel, she will never be allowed back to her beloved family in Majdal Shams, the largest Druze village in the Golan Heights. *The Syrian Bride* is a story about physical, mental and emotional borders and the will to cross them. A story about a family trying to cope with its ability to define boundaries and deal with them – focusing on Mona's sister Amal, a modern women trapped in a tradition and culture she wants to break out of.



Save Money!
Buy a
Film Festival Pass
www.jcchouston.org

MY 100 CHILDREN preceded by SISTER ROSE'S PASSION

Monday, March 20 • 5:30 p.m. • JCC

Friday, March 24 • 1:00 p.m. • JCC

MY 100 CHILDREN

Directors: Amalia Margolin & Oshra Schwartz
Israel, 2003, 68 min.,
Hebrew with English subtitles



An impassioned documentary about orphaned children who found themselves in Krakow after World War II. These children were cared for by Lena Kuchler, who was forced to take the children on a perilous journey to France, and then to Israel. It is here where Lena completes her mission; she says good-bye to the children as they are accepted into the Schiller Kibbutz. Lena's daughter hosts this film and, through a trip back to Poland with many of the now-adult survivors, we hear about the experiences that brought them together and the long-overdue recognition of one woman's ultimate sacrifice.

SISTER ROSE'S PASSION

Director: Oren Jacoby
USA, 2004, 39 min., English



Sister Rose tells the story of Sister Rose Thering, activist in the fight against anti-Semitism in the Catholic Church. She had an active part in Vatican II, which led to many reforms in the Catholic Church, and was a strong component in denouncing Church doctrine which blamed the Jews for Jesus' death. Winner of the Best Documentary Short Film at New York's Tribeca Film Festival and nominated for a 2005 Academy Award in the Documentary Short Subject, *Sister Rose's Passion* is a compelling and inspirational film about overcoming prejudice and fighting centuries old beliefs.

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KEEP NOT SILENT

Monday, March 20 • 7:30 p.m. • JCC

Director: Ilil Alexander

USA, 2004, 52 min.,

Hebrew with English subtitles

Winner of the Israeli Oscar for Best Documentary, as well as eight international awards, Ilil Alexander's stunning debut film boldly documents the clandestine struggle of three women fighting for their right to love within their beloved Orthodox communities in Jerusalem. Though their life choices exact a devastating price, these women are committed to confronting their duality, and accept the toll with a profound compassion toward their society.

Ingenious cinematic techniques underscore the excruciating pain of constant self-suppression, and provide the anonymity necessary for these women to continue living in their communities. Their courageous fight for self-realization, honesty and acceptance is an extraordinary model for those who struggle with issues of religious and sexual identity.



BAGELS, COFFEE & FILM

Thursday, March 23 • 10:00 a.m. • JCC

Join us for a cup of coffee before the film. The film will be

The Ritchie Boys (see description below).

Complimentary Bagels & Coffee available at 9:30 a.m.

THE RITCHIE BOYS

Tuesday, March 21 • 5:30 p.m. • JCC

Thursday, March 23 • 10:00 a.m. • JCC

Director: Christian Bauer

USA, Germany, and Italy, 2004, 90 min.,

English

This is the untold story of a group of young men who fled Nazi Germany and returned to Europe as soldiers in U.S. uniforms. They knew the psychology and the language of the enemy better than anybody else. In Camp Ritchie, Maryland, they were trained in intelligence and psychological warfare. Not always courageous, but determined, bright and inventive, they fought their own kind of war. They saved lives. They were victors, not victims. They were young and the world's most unlikely soldiers - with the greatest motivation to fight this war: they were Jewish. They called themselves The Ritchie Boys.



FATELESS - Premiere Screening
Tuesday, March 21 • 7:30 p.m. • JCC

Directors: Lajos Koltai
Hungary, 2005, 140 min.,
Hungarian with English subtitles

Renowned novelist Imre Kertesz won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2002 for *Fateless* which follows the extraordinary story of Gyorgy Koves, a Jewish boy from Budapest who finds himself increasingly alone as the terrible events of World War II unfold around him. His father is sent off to a labor camp, and Gyorgy himself volunteers to go to a camp in Germany, convinced that his life will be safer there. At the concentration camp, Gyorgy conforms and survives, taking the realities of camp life for granted, and treating it as an everyday existence not unlike any other. Gyorgy finds that even among the cruelties of camp life, there are genuine moments of happiness.

Sponsored by Holocaust Museum Houston



TURN LEFT AT THE END OF THE WORLD

Wednesday, March 22 • 5:30 p.m. • JCC

Director: Avi Nesher
France and Israel, 2003, 110 min.,
English, Hebrew and French with
English subtitles

Turn Left at the End of the World takes us back to 1969 to a tiny isolated Israeli village on the edge of the Negev where two Jewish immigrant families, one from Morocco and the other from India become unlikely neighbors who share nothing but the dream of a new life. Obligated to live side by side, they become embroiled in a culture war trying to assert their cultural identities, the Indian family by putting together a cricket team, the Moroccan family by trying to disrupt the game. Meanwhile, each family has a teenage daughter negotiating the landscape of the sexual revolution. When the sultry Moroccan Nicole and the heady Indian Sara become friends, their youth and desire for freedom help them overcome their differences. In this isolated place, the road to harmony takes many surprising and comical twists and turns and is beautifully filmed against a desert background. This charming and sexy story is the highest-grossing Israeli film of the last decade and includes an international cast from France, India and Israel with standout performances by striking newcomers Liraz Charhi and Garti Netta. Adult content.



Thirsting for some Java?
Arrive early and visit the Café at the J.



WHEN DO WE EAT?

Premiere Screening
Wednesday, March 22 • 8:00 p.m. • JCC

Director: Salvador Litvak
USA, 2005, 91 min., English



When Do We Eat? is an irreverent, slightly off-color farce about a wacky assimilated Jewish family. It is the story of the "world's fastest Seder" gone horribly awry. On this night, secrets will be revealed, fantasies fulfilled, barriers broken down, and some food might be consumed. It's about an old school dad (Michael Lerner) who's as tough on his sons as his father (Jack Klugman) is on him. On this night, however, one of the boys (Ben Feldman) slips Dad a dose of special, psychedelic Ecstasy in order "to give him a new perspective." Meanwhile, Mom (Lesley Ann Warren) brings a handsome stranger to dinner and the kids take sides. By the end of the night, however, Dad's visions turn him into a modern day Moses intent on leading this hungry group to the promised land of family forgiveness. Of course they're all so stubborn, it'd be easier to part the Red Sea.

*Presented in collaboration with
Young Adult Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston*

ONLY HUMAN

Saturday, March 25 • 7:00 p.m. • MFAH
Sunday, March 26 • 3:00 p.m. • MFAH

Directors: Dominic Harari and Teresa Pelegri
Argentina, Spain, Portugal, 2004, 93 min,
Spanish with English subtitles



Leni (Marián Aguilera) arrives home to introduce her fiancé Rafi (Guillermo Toledo) to her Jewish family for the first time: her mother Gloria (Norma Aleandro), her promiscuous sister Tania (Maria Botto), Tania's contrary eight year old daughter Paula, her recently orthodox brother David and her blind grandfather Dudu. Everything goes wonderfully until the lovers reveal that Rafi is Palestinian. With his future mother-in-law Gloria unhinged by the news, Rafi tries to ingratiate himself by helping in the kitchen. To make matters worse he accidentally drops the soup he was meant to defrost out the seventh floor window, hitting a pedestrian below. Rafi sneaks downstairs to check on the body and retrieve the soup. Having seen the victim, Rafi rushes upstairs not knowing what to do! As he returns to the kitchen he notices a family portrait of Leni's father, that bears a very close resemblance to the corpse lying outside.

Save Money!
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THE FIRST TIME I WAS 20

Saturday, March 25 • 9:00 p.m. • MFAH
Sunday, March 26 • 1:00 p.m. • MFAH

Director: Lorraine Levy
France, 2004, 98 min.,
French with English subtitles



With great wit and musical talent on her side, Hannah is the misfit who strolls into pride of place in a pre-feminist era, hostile world. Sixteen-year-old Hannah lives in the Paris suburbs of post-war France with her doting mother, her garage mechanic father and her two pretty sisters. She is not interested in dating, and the famous school jazz band that she desperately wants to join is traditionally all-male and refuses to change. Hannah's adolescence is turning out to be a trial, especially when pranks aimed at her turn from gentle teasing to outright Anti-Semitism. By remaining true to herself, Hannah finds the courage to score points for girls who do not spend their lives chasing boys, the cultural outsiders and for fat girls everywhere. *The First Time I Was Twenty* takes the traditional story of a likeable misfit and lifts it to an uncommon level of charm, humor and poignancy. Nudity and adult content.

GO FOR ZUCKER

Closing Night at the JCC
Sunday, March 26 • 7:30 p.m. • JCC

Director: Dani Levy
Germany, 2004, 93 min.,
German with English subtitles



From the producers of *Run Lola Run* and *Goodbye Lenin!* comes the German box office smash, *Go for Zucker*, a film about a comically dysfunctional Jewish family. Mixing slapstick humor with a jaundiced eye for sharply drawn social satire, not to mention a disarming dose of political incorrectness, *Go for Zucker* stars Henry Hübchen and Udo Samel as the two estranged brothers -- one a hard-living former East German celebrity sportscaster (Hübchen) now very much down-on-his luck, and the other (Samel), his quasi-Orthodox brother from the West. The two are awkwardly reunited when they learn that in order to share their mother's inheritance they will need to reconcile before burying her according to Jewish custom in her native East Germany.

Sponsored by June and Leonard Goldberg

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2nd Annual Houston Jewish Film Festival at a Glance

MARCH 16 – MARCH 26, 2006

DATE	TIME	FILMS	LOCATION
Thursday, March 16	8:15 p.m.	A Cantor's Tale	JCC, Kaplan Theatre*
Friday, March 17	1:00 p.m.	A Cantor's Tale	JCC, Kaplan Theatre
Saturday, March 18	7:30 p.m.	Live and Become	MFAH, Brown Auditorium Theater
Sunday, March 19	3:00 p.m.	Live and Become	MFAH, Brown Auditorium Theater
	5:30 p.m.	Metallic Blues	MFAH, Brown Auditorium Theater
	7:15 p.m.	Syrian Bride	MFAH, Brown Auditorium Theater
Monday, March 20	5:30 p.m.	Sister Rose's Passion / My 100 Children	JCC, Kaplan Theatre
	7:30 p.m.	Keep Not Silent	JCC, Kaplan Theatre
Tuesday, March 21	5:30 p.m.	Ritchie Boys	JCC, Kaplan Theatre
	7:30 p.m.	Fateless	JCC, Kaplan Theatre
Wednesday, March 22	5:30 p.m.	Turn Left at the End of the World	JCC, Kaplan Theatre
	8:00 p.m.	When Do We Eat?	JCC, Kaplan Theatre
Thursday, March 23	10:00 a.m.	Ritchie Boys	JCC, Kaplan Theatre
Friday, March 24	1:00 p.m.	Sister Rose's Passion / My 100 Children	JCC, Kaplan Theatre
Saturday, March 25	7:00 p.m.	Only Human	MFAH, Brown Auditorium Theater
	9:00 p.m.	First Time I Was 20	MFAH, Brown Auditorium Theater
Sunday, March 26	1:00 p.m.	First Time I Was 20	MFAH, Brown Auditorium Theater
	3:00 p.m.	Only Human	MFAH, Brown Auditorium Theater
	7:30 p.m.	Go For Zucker	JCC, Kaplan Theatre

*The Kaplan Theatre is located in the Jewish Community Center's I.W. Marks Theatre Center



The Jewish Community Center of Houston
5601 South Braeswood • Houston, TX 77096 • 713-729-3200, www.Jcchouston.org



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