



4<sup>th</sup>  
Annual

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HOUSTON  
JEWISH  
film festival



March 12 – March 23, 2008



# Fabulous Fourth Year of Films

Welcome to a banner year for the Houston Jewish Film Festival.

We are thrilled to announce our largest film festival to date with an interesting mix of documentaries, features, Israeli, French, English and American films that bring a multiplicity of Jewish lives and stories to our Festival.

This year's film festival includes Houston premieres, high-level discussions, interesting panels, film analyses, lively talk-backs and big-name stars such as **Judd Hirsch**, **Helena Bonham-Carter**, and **David Strathairn**.

Israeli film-making has surged onto the scene. Never has there been such an increase in the number of breakout Israeli films that have succeeded so well internationally, including the Oscar-nominated **Beaufort**, Sundance International Jury Award-winning **Sweet Mud**, the Cannes Film Festival Camera D'Or - winning **Jellyfish**, and Miami's Grand Jury prize-winning **Someone To Run With**.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our supporters and the creative collaboration of the staff and volunteers of the Jewish Community Center and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

And now, we need the support of you, our viewers. Buy a ticket! Buy a pass! Bring a friend! Bring a group!

We look forward to seeing you at the movies.....

Sue Goott  
Co-Chair

Mignon Wolf  
Co-Chair

## TICKET INFORMATION



Individual Tickets  
\$6 JCC & MFAH Members & MFAH Film Buffs  
\$8 Public  
\$1 discount for students and seniors

Receive two films for FREE with a Festival Pass  
\$66 JCC Members & MFAH Members  
\$88 Public • \$5 discount for students and seniors

To purchase a festival pass visit:

[www.jcchouston.org](http://www.jcchouston.org)  
call: 713-551-7255

*The JCC's box office will open 45 minutes prior to each screening*

To purchase individual tickets:

[www.jcchouston.org](http://www.jcchouston.org) &  
[www.mfah.org/film](http://www.mfah.org/film)

# 2008 Houston Jewish Film Festival Committee

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**Mignon Wolf**  
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OPENING NIGHT



## I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN YOU

Wednesday, March 12

8:00 p.m. • JCC

**Director:** Richard Trank  
France, USA, 2007, 105 min.,  
English

This remarkable documentary describes the life and legacy of the famous Nazi-hunter and humanist, Simon Wiesenthal, who died in 2005. A secular Jew born in the Ukraine, Wiesenthal survived the Holocaust but lost 89 members of his own and his wife's family in the concentration camps. He dedicated

more than six decades of his life to tracking down Nazi war criminals. An architect by trade, he never practiced this profession after the war. Not only did Wiesenthal succeed in contributing to the prosecution of 1,100 war criminals, he was also one of the first to draw public attention to the camps that held gypsies, homosexuals and many others who suffered under Nazi rule.

*Sponsored by June and Leonard Goldberg*

*Special guest: Mark Weitzman, Director, Simon Wiesenthal Center of New York*

join us for a pre-film champagne reception at 7:15 p.m.

## SCHMOOZE, SHMEAR, AND SC(H)REENING

Thursday, March 13 • 10:00 a.m.

Come join some of your film lover friends at 9:00 a.m. for complimentary coffee and a bagel before the film **ARRANGED** (see description below).

### ARRANGED

Thursday, March 13

10:00 a.m. • JCC

**Directors:** Diane Crespo and  
Stefan C. Shaefer

USA, 2006, 90 min., English

*Arranged* centers on the  
friendship of an orthodox Jewish

woman and a Muslim woman who are both starting their careers as first-year teachers in a Brooklyn public school. Over the course of the year they learn they share much in common, not least of which is that they are both going through arranged marriages. The story shows the struggles both women face as religiously observant young women when interacting with an unsympathetic secular world. Similarly, the girls' parents have a hard time accepting that their daughters could be friends. The film's uplifting tenor examines religious differences in contemporary situations, with respect and understanding.



## STEEL TOES

Thursday, March 13  
8:00 p.m. • JCC

**Directors:** David Gow  
and Mark Adam  
Canada, 2006,  
90 min., English

Rage, intolerance,  
compassion, and hope  
collide in this moving

drama. Danny Dunkelman is a court appointed Jewish lawyer played by Oscar® nominated actor David Strathairn (*Good Night & Good Luck*). He is assigned to defend a skinhead accused of a racially motivated murder. The result is an intense and fiery relationship that develops between these two men as they explore their emotional and intellectual differences.

Post-screening talk-back presented by



featuring Attorney Stanley Schneider.



## IMAGINARY WITNESS

Friday, March 14 • 1:00 p.m. • JCC  
Tuesday, March 18 • 6:00 p.m. • JCC

**Director:** Daniel Anker  
USA, 2004, 92 min., English

Filmmaker Daniel Anker examines Hollywood's depiction of the Holocaust and its incomprehensible atrocities in this award-winning documentary narrated by Gene Hackman, featuring interviews with Steven Spielberg and Sidney Lumet. Through film clips, newsreels, and firsthand accounts, the documentary questions the responsibility of filmmakers in telling of then-current events and history.



## SIXTY SIX

Saturday, March 15 • 7:30 p.m. • MFAH  
Sunday, March 16 • 3:00 p.m. • MFAH

**Director:** Paul Weiland  
U.K., 2006, 93 min., English

Bernie Rubens can't wait for his Bar Mitzvah day to arrive; for once he would be the center of attention! Who knew that on Bernie's big day, in the summer of 1966, all of England would be consumed by soccer fever for the English team's appearance in the World Cup final?



Save Money!

Buy a Film Festival Pass

[www.jcchouston.org](http://www.jcchouston.org)

## MAKING TROUBLE

Sunday, March 16 • 1:00 p.m. • MFAH

Friday, March 21 • 1:00 p.m. • JCC\*

**Director:** Rachel Talbot  
USA, 2006, 85 min., English

Can we talk? There's a lot of it in this documentary produced by Jewish Women's Archive about six Jewish comediennes and their unique brand of humor. This documentary celebrates the work of Molly Picon,



Fanny Brice, Sophie Tucker, Joan Rivers, Gilda Radner and Wendy Wasserstein, highlighting the ways in which they used their talents to empower, heal, and shake the social order. Narrated over pastrami and pickles by other Jewish woman in comedy: Judy Gold, Cory Kahaney, Jackie Hoffman, and Jessica Kirson.

*\*Come early for Making Trouble Houston Style with Helene Zadok and friends.*

## JELLYFISH

Sunday, March 16 • 5:00 p.m. • MFAH

**Director:** Etgar Keret  
France, Israel, 2007, 78 min., Hebrew with English subtitles

A modern montage set in Tel Aviv.

Different lives overlap in unexpected ways: newlyweds coping with the bride's broken leg at their wedding reception; a wedding photographer trying to find a more fulfilling role; a waitress with a rotting apartment who watches as a girl mysteriously comes out of the sea; a Filipino maid making ends meet thousands of miles from home. Some find joy, others sorrow. Winner of the Camera D'Or prize at the Cannes Film Festival.

*Pre-release screening courtesy of Zeitgeist Films.*



## A LOVE TO HIDE

Sunday, March 16 • 7:00 p.m. • MFAH

Saturday, March 22 • 9:30 p.m. • MFAH

**Director:** Christian Fauer  
France, 2006, 102 min., French with English subtitles

Captivating from the first moment, this drama is about a young man in Nazi-occupied France who hides two secrets: his Jewish childhood girlfriend trying to escape the Nazis, and his affection for his current lover, Phillip. His secret life as a member of the "third sex" gets only harder to conceal from the public, the Nazis, and even his family.



## PRAYING WITH LIOR

Monday, March 17

8:00 p.m. • JCC

**Director:** Ilana Trachtman  
USA, 2007, 87 min., English

Lior Liebling, a unique Jewish boy with Down Syndrome, spends his days praying endlessly to God, much to the delight -- and occasional befuddlement -- of those around him. Follow Lior, nicknamed "the little rebbe," as he approaches his Bar Mitzvah. This coming-of-age documentary paints a touching portrait of a family, while raising tough questions about notions of faith and disability. Bring tissues.

*Pre-release screening courtesy of First Run Features.*

*Post-screening discussion by Jewish Family Service moderated by Sandy Block.*



## SOMEONE TO RUN WITH

Tuesday, March 18 • 8:00 p.m. • JCC

**Director:** Oded Davidoff

Israel, 2006, 118 min., Hebrew with English subtitles

Nominated for 12 awards by the Israeli Film Academy; based on the novel by David Grossman. Through the streets of a not-so-holy Jerusalem, two teenagers' stories unite to tell the summer adventure of their lives. Tamar leaves behind her home and all she knows, to brace herself for a dangerous mission to help a loved-one. Asaf, a naïve shy boy working a boring summer job at City Hall, is tasked to take an uncontrollable stray dog from the pound, put it on a leash, and let it lead him back to its owners to be found. This movie tells a beautiful story about growing up and finding the strength to overcome your fears, the meaning of true friendship, and best of all, finding someone to love, someone to hold, someone to run with.



## SWEET MUD

Wednesday, March 19

4:30 p.m. • JCC

**Director:** Dror Shaul

Israel, Germany, 2006, 100 min.,  
Hebrew with English subtitles

On a 1970's kibbutz, 12-year-old Dvir must endure various tests of manhood -- but these trials pale in comparison with the troubles brought on by his mother whose sanity is quickly fading. As the community ostracizes his mother, young Dvir begins to question the kibbutz's rigid, utopian rules in this episodic coming-of-age tale that won several awards including the Dramatic World Cinema Jury Prize at Sundance.



## BROTHER'S SHADOW

Wednesday, March 19 • 8:00 p.m. • JCC

Thursday, March 20 • 1:00 p.m. • JCC

**Director:** Todd S. Yellin  
USA, 2006, 91 min., English



After a lengthy stint in jail, black sheep Jake Groden returns to his Brooklyn, N.Y. hometown when his virtuous identical twin brother suddenly dies. With the family cabinetry business failing, Jake tries to fill his sibling's shoes, but their implacable father (played by Judd Hirsch) doesn't trust Jake -- who soon finds himself questioning his identity. Susan Floyd, Elliot Korte and Ruben Santiago-Hudson also star in this drama.

## BE' TAY AVON SENIOR ADULT LUNCH PROGRAM

### MAKING TROUBLE

Friday, March 21 • 1:00 p.m.

Come have lunch and a movie with the Betay Avon Crowd. The movie will be **MAKING TROUBLE** (see description on pg. 6).

Lunch and Movie \$6 JCC member / \$8 Public.

RSVP required for lunch. To RSVP, call Nomi Barancik at 713-729-3200 ext. 3258.



## BEAUFORT

Saturday, March 22 • 7:00 p.m. • MFAH

Sunday, March 23 • 3:00 p.m. • MFAH

**Director:** Joseph Cedar  
Israel, 2007, 132 min., Hebrew with English subtitles



This intense drama tells the story of a 22-year old outpost commander and his troops in the last days of war in southern

Lebanon in 2000. The commander knows that the outpost will soon be abandoned, so what price should be paid to defend an isolated hill from an enemy that cannot lose but hasn't quite won? Nominated by the Israeli Film Academy for nine awards including best film, winner of the Berlin Film Festival Silver Bear Award for Best Director, and nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Film.

*Pre-release screening courtesy of Kino International.*

Receive **FREE** admission to most  
MFAH films by  
becoming a *Film Buff*.  
To order a *Film Buffs Membership*  
for yourself or as a gift  
call 713-639-7531.

## LITTLE HEROES

Sunday, March 23 • 1:00 p.m. • MFAH

**Director:** Itai Lev

Israel, 2006, 76 min., Hebrew with English subtitles

This delightful family film starts with a young Israeli boy meeting a Russian gifted immigrant girl. After the girl senses a stranded couple in great danger, they journey across the Israeli desert to rescue them. These children learn about teamwork and making a difference in the world. Winner of the Zlín International Film Festival for Children and Youth for best Feature Film for Children.



## CLOSING NIGHT



## SHE'S GOT IT

Sunday, March 23

7:30 p.m. • JCC

**Director:** Yankul Goldwasser  
Israel, 2006, 90 min., Hebrew  
with English subtitles

Malka Ohion, a seamstress in lower-class  
Mitzpe Ramon, leads workers in a

battle against management and the threat of a lay-off. Meanwhile, her sister Yafit, a teller in a local bank, falls in love with a security guard planning a robbery. When the sisters realize the security guard's plans, they engage in their own scheme resulting in treachery and betrayal.

*To be preceded by*



## THE UNCHOSEN ONES: LOST IN THE HOLY LAND

**Director:** Iris Bahr

Israel, 2006, 17 min., English

A laugh-out-loud tale of a young woman who is on a Singles Tour and finds herself suddenly abandoned by the group only hours before the highly anticipated wife-picking ceremony. On a frantic mission to reunite with the group, she encounters a silly mix of characters - all played by Iris Bahr, star of the off Broadway one-women show, Dai.

that's **not** "a wrap." dessert reception following films.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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*\*As of print deadline*

# 4th Annual Houston Jewish Film Festival at a Glance

## MARCH 12 – MARCH 23, 2008

DATE	TIME	FILMS	LOCATION
Wednesday, March 12	8:00 p.m.	I Have Never Forgotten You	JCC, Kaplan Theatre*
Thursday, March 13	10:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m.	Arranged Steel Toes	JCC, Kaplan Theatre JCC, Kaplan Theatre
Friday, March 14	1:00 p.m.	Imaginary Witness	JCC, Kaplan Theatre
Saturday, March 15	7:30 p.m.	Sixty Six	MFAH, Brown Auditorium Theater
Sunday, March 16	1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Making Trouble Sixty Six Jellyfish A Love to Hide	MFAH, Brown Auditorium Theater MFAH, Brown Auditorium Theater MFAH, Brown Auditorium Theater MFAH, Brown Auditorium Theater
Monday, March 17	8:00 p.m.	Praying With Lior	JCC, Kaplan Theatre
Tuesday, March 18	6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Imaginary Witness Someone to Run With	JCC, Kaplan Theatre JCC, Kaplan Theatre
Wednesday, March 19	4:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Sweet Mud Brother's Shadow	JCC, Kaplan Theatre JCC, Kaplan Theatre
Thursday, March 20	1:00 p.m.	Brother's Shadow	JCC, Kaplan Theatre
Friday, March 21	1:00 p.m.	Making Trouble	JCC, Kaplan Theatre
Saturday, March 22	7:00 p.m. 9:30 p.m.	Beaufort A Love to Hide	MFAH, Brown Auditorium Theater MFAH, Brown Auditorium Theater
Sunday, March 23	1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Little Heroes Beaufort Unchosen Ones/She's Got It	MFAH, Brown Auditorium Theater MFAH, Brown Auditorium Theater JCC, Kaplan Theatre

\*The Kaplan Theatre is located in the Jewish Community Center's IW Marks Theatre Center

### Don't want to hassle with parking? Take METRORail to the Museum!

METRO's Light Rail delivers you to the Museum's doorstep! The Museum District stop is conveniently located between the Audrey Jones Beck Building and the Visitors Center. Visit [www.ridemetro.org](http://www.ridemetro.org) for more information.



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