



8TH ANNUAL
BETH TZEDEC
CONGREGATION
JEWISH
FILM
FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 1-30, 2008
CALGARY, ALBERTA

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

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Sponsor of the

EIGHTH ANNUAL BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

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8TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

SHALOM

Welcome to the 8th Annual Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival – our 8th year of bringing the community together for a shared experience, as we explore the richness and diversity of our Jewish world through the magical lens of cinema. Our ever-growing festival will run over 4 full weekends this year, featuring a larger selection of films than ever before – films that we hope will move and inspire you, entertain and delight you, enlighten and challenge you.

We are excited, this year, to be offering a special family afternoon, with films geared to children, youth and the whole family. The screening of these films is co-sponsored by the Council for Jewish Education (CJEd), an initiative of CJCC, as part of their Jewish Life Fair. The Fair's objective is to showcase and promote awareness about the many formal and informal educational opportunities for Jewish growth that exist in our community – a goal that our film festival wholeheartedly embraces. We hope you'll bring your children or grandchildren to enjoy these award-winning films!

In co-operation with the Holocaust Education and Remembrance Committee of CJCC, we're proud to present the inspiring documentary *As Seen Through These Eyes*, as part of this year's community-wide Kristallnacht Observance on November 9th. The evening is open to the entire community, at no charge.

We're delighted to have The Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta join us as a co-sponsor in the presentation of the fascinating documentary film *The First Basket*, a look at the little-known historical connection between Jews and the game of basketball.

We're pleased to let you know that the JCC's Jewish Book Fair will have a selection of books on display throughout the festival, and we hope that you'll avail yourselves of this opportunity.

As always, we would like to express our deepest thanks to all of our sponsors, without whom this festival would not be possible. It is their generosity, community-mindedness and commitment to Jewish culture that enables us to offer this event to the community.

We hope you'll enjoy and be enriched by our 2008 Jewish Film Festival.

Harvey Cyngiser

FILM FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Harvey Cyngiser

Shula Banchik
Norm Greensides
Ronalda Greensides
Melanie Ksienski
Maxine Fischbein
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Karen Roth

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

We wish to thank all of our sponsors
For their generous support
of the 2008 Film Festival

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8TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

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BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2008 - OPENING NIGHT

THE BEETLE

Israel 2008

Director: Yishai Orian

Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles

70 minutes



Documentary - Comedy –

An award-winning audience favourite, *The Beetle* takes film-lovers along on the hilarious road trip and transformational personal journey of Yishai Orian -- the film's director and obsessive but lovable star. His very pregnant wife has laid down the law: Get rid of the ailing volkswagen and grow up . . . there's a baby on the way! Unable to let go of his beloved but impractical car, Yishai begins to trace the previous owners. Thus begins his madcap adventure. Will he redeem the storied but sputtering auto? Can he be a responsible husband and father? Find out by buckling up for a ride that is, by turns, laugh-out-loud funny and deeply moving.

Audience Top Ten Laurel Choice, HotDocs International Film Festival, Canada, 2008
Opening Film, DocAviv International Film Festival, Israel, 2008

G Saturday, November 1st at 7:30 PM

8TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2008 - OPENING NIGHT

NOODLE

Israel 2007

Director: Ayelet Menahemi

Hebrew, Mandarin with English Subtitles

90 minutes



Comedy/Drama

Hailed by critics as the "Israeli movie of the year," Beijing meets Tel Aviv in this touching, sometimes comic drama about an unlikely duo. Miri, a twice-widowed El Al flight attendant, finds her well-regulated existence turned upside down when her Chinese housekeeper goes out on an urgent errand and disappears, leaving her silent six-year old son behind. So begins a cross-cultural, inter-continental adventure involving an array of engaging characters and a delightful story that speaks to our deepest longings and highest ideals. Heartbreak is no barrier when we allow ourselves to love and be loved.

Nominated for 10 Israeli Academy Awards

Winner – Grand Prix of the Jury – Montreal World Film Festival

G Saturday, November 1st at 9:20 PM

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2008

PRAYING WITH LIOR

USA 2007

Director: Ilana Trachtman

English

87 minutes



Documentary –

Lior Liebling is a thirteen year-old Jewish boy preparing for the greatest achievement of his life to date: his Bar Mitzvah. This is no ordinary religious rite of passage: Lior has Down Syndrome. The son of two Rabbis, Lior has always displayed a closeness with God, praying and singing with utterly infectious joy and abandon. With his earnest presence he has created an integral place for himself within his community – a community that, in nurturing Lior, is itself enriched. Told with intimacy and humor, Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Ilana Trachtman's profoundly moving documentary provides a window into the challenges faced by Lior, and the complex dynamics of his relationships with family, friends and community. It also poses important questions about the meaning of "disability" and the role and responsibilities of the Jewish community in being an inclusive and welcoming place for special-needs children.



Sunday, November 2nd at 1:00 PM

SPECIAL GUEST: Sandra Morton Weizman, mother of a special-needs child, will share her insights with us following the film

8TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2008

BLESSED IS THE MATCH

USA 2008

Director: Roberta Grossman

English

84 minutes



Documentary –

Roberta Grossman's inspirational film *Blessed is the Match*, narrated by three-time Academy Award nominee Joan Allen, is the first documentary feature about Hannah Senesh, the legendary World War II-era poet and diarist who became a paratrooper, resistance fighter and modern-day Joan of Arc. Safe in Palestine in 1944, Hannah joined a mission to rescue Jews in her native Hungary. Shockingly, it was the only outside rescue mission for Jews during the Holocaust. Hannah parachuted behind enemy lines, was captured, tortured and ultimately executed by the Nazis. Incredibly, her mother Catherine witnessed the entire ordeal – first as a prisoner with Hannah and later as her advocate, braving the bombed-out streets of Budapest in a desperate attempt to save her daughter. With unprecedented access to the Senesh family archive, this powerful story is grippingly brought to life through Hannah's diary entries and poetry, and through her correspondence with her mother. And with the raw and revelatory memoirs and letters of Catherine Senesh as a counterpoint to Hannah's youthful writings – and as the film's emotional core, *Blessed is the Match* becomes more than a canonizing tribute to a fallen heroine. Ultimately, it is a poignant story about the love between a mother and a daughter.

PG Sunday, November 2nd at 3:10 PM

*"Blessed is the match consumed in the kindling flame.
Blessed is the flame that burns in the secret fastness of the heart.
Blessed is the heart with strength to stop its beating for honor's sake.
Blessed is the match consumed in kindling flame."*

- Hannah Senesh, days before her capture by the Nazis

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2008

THE LITTLE TRAITOR

Israel/USA 2007

Director: Lynn Roth

English, Hebrew with English subtitles

89 minutes



Drama –

Based on the novel *Panther in the Basement* by world renowned Israeli author Amos Oz, this captivating coming-of-age story is set in Palestine in 1947 during the British Mandate, just months before Israel achieves independent statehood. It is the touching tale of an implausible friendship between an amiable British soldier and a spirited, 11-year-old Jewish boy, Proffy Leibowitz, who wants nothing more than for the occupying British to leave his land. They first encounter one another when Proffy is seized one evening by Sergeant Dunlop (played by Alfred Molina) for breaking curfew. Instead of arresting him, Dunlop escorts him back home, but in the weeks to come, a friendship ensues between these two foes. When town officials learn of Proffy's secret visits with the detested enemy, he is accused of being a traitor. These experiences will shape him for life...especially the surprising realization that he could have such genuine affection for his enemy....

Audience Choice Award for Best Feature, Palm Beach Int'l Film Festival

PG Sunday, November 2nd at 7:00 PM

8TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2008

THE SECRETS

Israel/France 2007
Director: Avi Nesher
Hebrew, French with English subtitles
120 minutes



Drama –

In his cinematic tour de force, director Avi Nesher hauntingly explores the ultimate question: how do you protect the tradition you love while remaining true to yourself? Naomi, the brilliant and pious daughter of an ultra-Orthodox rabbi is reeling from the untimely loss of her mother and resisting marriage to her father's prodigy by taking refuge at a women's religious seminary in Safed. There, she encounters Michelle, a rebellious young woman from France. Together, they befriend a beautiful, mysterious older woman, Anouk, who, ill and alone, struggles to reconcile her past, including a crime of passion. Naomi devises a series of Kabbalistic rituals to purge Anouk of her sins, but because her efforts cross the boundary of Jewish law, they must be kept a secret. Risking their futures to free Anouk from her past, Naomi and Michelle soon cross another boundary and are forced to confront their growing attraction for one another. Beautifully filmed against the breathtaking and mystical backdrop of Safed, *The Secrets* was nominated for eight Israeli Film Academy Awards, including Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor, and best Supporting Actress.

18^A **Nudity, Sexual content**
Saturday, November 8th at 7:00 PM

"The Secrets" is an emotionally overpowering drama that will move audiences wherever it plays. The film's mix of sensuality and spirituality is arresting. -- The Hollywood Reporter

A complex and bewitching cinematic creation, exotic, mystical, and provocative. -- Israel Daily

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2008

JELLYFISH

Israel/France 2007

Directors: Shira Geffen, Etgar Keret

Hebrew with English subtitles

78 minutes



Drama –

Swept along by the currents of modern life in a highly-stylized Tel Aviv setting, three young women's lives intersect in mysterious, often surprising ways in this award-winning, visually exquisite exploration of the gulf that exists between parents and children, between lovers, between adults and the children they wish they could still be. This poetic, magical and witty film by Shira Geffen and her partner Etgar Keret – one of Israel's most acclaimed contemporary authors – uses the central metaphors of the sea and the jellyfish to pose these questions: To what extent does any person chart his or her course? Can we weather the often ominous waves by reaching out, and holding on, to one another?

Winner – Camera d'Or, Cannes Film Festival, 2007

Winner – SACD Screenwriters Award, Cannes Film Festival 2007

Nominated for 10 Israeli Academy Awards

PG Saturday, November 8th at 9:30 PM

A Magical Glow! Altogether Charming! Refreshingly Playful! -- A. O. Scott, New York Times

8TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2008

TO SEE IF I'M SMILING

Israel 2007

Director: Tamar Yarom

Hebrew with English subtitles

60 minutes



Documentary –

There's a moment in this spellbinding film when you will realize the disturbing meaning of its title, and the traumatic pain that those words conceal. Six young Israeli women speak with surprising candour about the things they did and saw as soldiers stationed in the West Bank and Gaza during their compulsory two years of military service. The frank and often harrowing testimonials of these young women illustrate how an imbalance of power can sometimes lead to abuse of power, and offer insight into the complex, oftentimes incomprehensible process through which moral codes are subverted and values are supplanted. As these young women reflect on the own actions, the lingering trauma that they feel is palpable. Riveting and haunting, Tamar Yarom's award-winning film is a bold exploration of the human capacity to cross a blurry moral threshold.

Silver Wolf Award, IDFA 2007, Amsterdam

Audience Choice Award, IDFA 2007, Amsterdam

Best Documentary, Haifa International Film Festival 2007

PG Disturbing content
Sunday, November 9th at 1:00 PM

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2008

FACING THE WIND

Israel 2006

Director: Gilad Reshef

Hebrew with English subtitles

50 minutes



Documentary

One moment on a quiet Saturday afternoon, Oran Almog, aged 10, was enjoying a family meal in a restaurant. A moment later, his whole world was shattered when a suicide bomber walked into the restaurant and detonated herself. Oran lost his father, brother, grandparents and cousin, as well as his eyesight. From that pivotal moment on, he is forced to adapt to the new reality that took away all that is dear to him. Oran inherited the love for the sea from his grandfather, and he dreams of establishing a sailing center for the blind in his memory. Many difficulties pile up on his way to adulthood, symbolically marked by the celebration of his Bar-Mitzvah, but Oran is not a quitter, and is determined to be the captain of his own ship...



Mature themes

Sunday, November 9th at 2:10 PM

8TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2008

THE FIRST BASKET

USA 2007

Director: David Vyorst

English

86 minutes



Documentary –

Did you know that the first basket scored in the league that would later become the NBA was scored by a Jewish player? This intriguing documentary reveals the rich, but little-known history of Jews and basketball in the early 20th century, examining the role that basketball played in the assimilation of second-generation eastern European Jewish immigrants into American culture, as they established their own American identities. By the 1920s, nearly every Jewish urban neighborhood, school and institution had a basketball team, and when these teams evolved into professional leagues by the late 1940s, Jewish players and coaches led the way. Chock full of vivid anecdotes and distinctive characters, the film documents the profound influence that Jewish players had on the evolution of basketball, as it grew from a game played with ash-cans on tenement steps to the second most popular sport in the world. Narrated by award-winning actor Peter Riegert, *The First Basket* is more than a tribute to the many great Jewish Hall of Fame basketball pioneers; it is a documentation of an important, yet somehow forgotten, social history.

G Sunday, November 9th at 3:30 PM

Screening of the **THE FIRST BASKET** is proudly co-sponsored by
THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA



BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2008 - KRISTALLNACHT

AS SEEN THROUGH THESE EYES

USA 2007

Director: Hilary Helstein

English

70 minutes



Documentary –

Poet Maya Angelou writes: "I know why the caged bird sings". So does director Hilary Helstein, who has traveled the world over the past decade, compiling interviews with survivors who have given us something that history couldn't: a journal of the Holocaust as seen through the eyes of the artist, through the eyes of people who, by the very act of creating, rebelled and risked their lives by doing what they were forbidden to do. Narrated by Maya Angelou, this powerful and uplifting documentary reveals the story of the brave individuals – most of them mere children at the time – who fought back with the only weapons they had: charcoal, pencil stubs, shreds of paper and memories etched in their minds. Through a combination of interviews, photographs, archival footage and stunning artwork, this beautifully rendered film offers a moving testimonial to the resiliency of the human spirit, enduring against all odds.

PG Sunday, November 9th following ceremony commencing at 7:00 PM

SPECIAL GUEST: Director Hilary Helstein
Will be in attendance for a post-screening Q&A

Screening of the film AS SEEN THROUGH THESE EYES

Is open to the entire community, at no charge,

As part of our community-wide

KRISTALLNACHT OBSERVANCE

The screening is presented in co-operation with
THE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
OF CALGARY JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL



8TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2008

BEAUFORT

Israel 2007

Director: Joseph Cedar
Hebrew with English subtitles
125 minutes



Drama –

Winner of the 2007 Berlin Film Festival's Best Director award, and a nominee for the Best Foreign Film Academy Award, *Beaufort* chronicles the final days of an Israeli army unit's tense, painful withdrawal in 2000 from a strategic bunker inside a 12th century Crusader fortress near the Lebanese border, the last outpost in southern Lebanon and a symbol of one of Israel's most contentious military campaigns. Awaiting final orders to evacuate, and under continuous rocket and missile fire from an unseen and amorphous enemy, Liraz, the commander of the outpost, and his beleaguered troops are, in effect, now sacrificing themselves to defend a mountain that no longer holds any strategic value or purpose. Adeptly capturing the unrelenting tension, fear and moral dilemmas faced by these young soldiers, Director Joseph Cedar's quietly intense and brutally authentic drama is, ultimately, a contemplation on the futility of war.

Silver Bear Award for Best Director, Berlin Int'l Film Festival

Israel's Official Selection for Best Foreign Feature Film, Academy Awards

Nominated for 10 Israeli Academy awards

14^A War Violence
Thursday, November 20th at 7:00 PM

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2008

THE CHAMPAGNE SPY

Israel/Germany 2007

Director: Nadav Schirman

Hebrew, English, French, German with English subtitles

90 minutes



Documentary –

“Bracing and dramatic” is what *Variety* calls this stylish and highly cinematic documentary that offers a fascinating look at the personal fallout of a life of espionage. Oded Gur-Arie is just 12 years old when his father reveals to him that he is a Mossad agent, swearing the boy to secrecy because his life depends on it. When he leaves on his mission to Cairo during the 1960’s, assuming the identity of Wolfgang Lotz – ex- Nazi millionaire and horse breeder , Oded and his mother remain alone in Paris, anxiously awaiting his return. Now, Oded breaks 40 years of silence and journeys into his legendary father’s real and covert identities, confronting the tragic childhood burden of his father’s career as a real life James Bond. Winner of the 2007 Israeli Academy Award for Best Documentary, this emotionally gripping film takes us beyond the myths, giving us a rare and riveting glimpse into the cloak and dagger world of espionage, and revealing the heavy personal and emotional price paid by those who live in the shadows.

2007 Israeli Academy Award for Best Documentary

*Israeli Documentary Awards 2007: Special Producers Award, Best Editing, Best Original Score
Jury Prize, DocAviv Int’l Film Festival 2007*

John Schlesinger Award for Outstanding First Feature, Palm Springs Int’l Film Festival

PG Saturday, November 22nd at 7:00 PM

8TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2008

THE DEBT

Israel 2007

Director: Assaf Bernstein

Hebrew, German & Russian with English subtitles

93 minutes



Psychological Drama/Thriller –

Nominated for four Israeli Academy Awards, *The Debt* is a spellbinding, cat-and-mouse espionage thriller set in Israel in the mid-1990s. Rachel (played by first lady of the Israeli screen, Gila Almagor) is a comfortably retired Mossad agent, having recently published her memoirs. In the 1960's, she had been one of three young Mossad agents who tracked down and captured an infamous Nazi war criminal known as the Surgeon of Birkenau. He was never brought to trial in Israel – they claim that he was shot and killed by Rachel when he attempted an escape. Now, more than 30 years later, a frail, perhaps delusional, man in a nursing home in the Ukraine has resurfaced and claims to be the Surgeon. Rachel, with her reputation as a national hero now in jeopardy, must silence him and redeem the debt against which she has built her life.

14^A

Some Violence

Saturday, November 22nd at 9:00 PM

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2008

FOUR SEASON'S LODGE

USA 2008

Director: Andrew Jacobs

English

101 minutes



Documentary –

A touching and often humorous verité documentary, *Four Seasons Lodge* follows a group of Holocaust survivors during what might be their final summer together at a bungalow colony in the Catskill mountains where, over the past 25 summers, they have found strength and refuge in each other's company. Directed by *New York Times* journalist Andrew Jacobs, with beautiful cinematography by a team of filmmakers including Albert Maysles, this is an insightful portrait of Holocaust survivors who refuse to be victims, who embrace life to the fullest, and who have learned to create family out of the bonds of friendship. The film is a subtle exploration of the challenges of aging, the pursuit of happiness in the face of haunting memories, and the ability of the human spirit to find joy and beauty in life despite numbing loss. As one of the residents proclaims, "To live this long, this well, is a victory."

PG Sunday, November 23rd at 1:00 PM

8TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2008

OCHBERG'S ORPHANS

United Kingdom 2007

Director: John Blair

English, Russian with English subtitles

40 minutes



Documentary –

1921: In Russia a million children are without parents after six years of war, famine and disease. 300,000 of them have been orphaned by murderous anti-Semitic attacks, their lives hanging by a thread. In South Africa, businessman Isaac Ochberg dreams a dream of saving some of these helpless and lost souls. Filmed in the original locations, together with unique archive footage and testimony from survivors, "Ochberg's Orphans" reveals this unknown story of heroism. Today, in a century dominated by wars, genocides and displaced peoples, Ochberg's legacy is a reminder that a small act can make a big difference.

Short-listed for Best Documentary Short at the 2008 Academy Awards



Mature themes

Sunday, November 23rd at 3:00 PM

SPECIAL GUEST: Ram Romanovsky, a descendant of the "Ochberg orphans"

Will be in attendance

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2008

MY FATHER MY LORD

Israel 2007

Director: David Volach

Hebrew with English subtitles

73 minutes



Drama –

Winner of Best Narrative film at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival, *My Father My Lord* is a quiet, intense film of shattering power and dreamlike beauty. Filmmaker David Volach drew upon his upbringing as one of 19 children in an ultra-Orthodox Jerusalem family to create this tale of a revered rabbi's effort to impart his deep faith to his young son Menachem, who is at an age where he absorbs the world around him as a place of wonder. Menachem does not resist but follows listlessly as his father leads him along the straight and narrow path that must be pursued by men of faith. But his father's guidance can count for only so much in the scheme of the universe. On a summer vacation to the Dead Sea, the Rabbi's faith is put to the test. Framed as a variation on the biblical story of Abraham and Isaac, this stunningly photographed, profoundly moving and haunting drama is a journey to the innermost world of the true believer as he comes face to face with the still silence of God.

Best Narrative Feature Film, 2007 Tribeca Int'l Film Festival

Nominated for 4 Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Film, Best Screenplay



Sunday, November 23rd at 4:00 PM

8TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2008 - "THE TIKKUN OLAM SCREENING"
REPAIRING THE WORLD

REFUSENIK

USA 2007

Director: Laura Bialis

English, Russian and Hebrew with English subtitles

112 minutes



Documentary –

The first retrospective documentary to chronicle the thirty-year movement to free Soviet Jews, *Refusenik* is a powerful and stirring film about the triumph of the human spirit in search of freedom, recounting how a small grassroots effort bold enough to take on a Cold War superpower blossomed into an international human rights campaign that engaged the disempowered and world leaders alike. By 1992, one and a half million Jews had left the Soviet Union to live in freedom as a direct result of what was likely the most successful human rights campaign of all times. Told through the eyes of activists on both sides of the Iron Curtain, the film is a tapestry of first-person accounts of courage, sacrifice, and ultimately, liberation. One of the proudest moments in Jewish history, the story of the refuseniks reminds us not only of the importance of Jewish solidarity, but also about the broader responsibilities we have as individuals living in a free society, and how, by utilizing the power inherent in a tolerant democracy, we can literally change the world.

G Sunday, November 23rd at 7:00 PM

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2008

THE YEAR MY PARENTS WENT ON VACATION

Brazil 2007

Director: Cao Hamburger

Language: Portuguese, Yiddish with English subtitles

104 minutes



Drama –

Set in Brazil in 1970, this affecting and gently humorous film thrusts twelve year-old Mauro into a maelstrom of political and personal upheaval. When his Jewish father and Catholic mother are forced to go into hiding because of their involvement in resisting the brutally repressive military regime, Mauro is left behind while they go “on vacation”, and finds himself thrust into the alien environment of his grandfather’s Jewish community in Sao Paulo’s vibrant ethnic district of Bom Retiro – a world of Yiddish-speaking strangers and traditions he has never been exposed to before. Feeling alone and estranged from everything that was once familiar to him, Mauro must create an ersatz family from amongst the people that surround him. The one constant in his life is his love for soccer, and his dream of seeing Brazil win a third World Cup. The only thing he dreams of more is to have his parents return. Selected as Brazil’s official entry to the 2008 Academy Awards, this “sensitive, delicate and involving film” (*Variety*) is about growing up, losing innocence, and longing for a place, and people, to call home.



Saturday, November 29th at 7:00 PM

8TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2008

SIXTY-SIX

Director: Paul Weiland
United Kingdom 2006
English
93 minutes



Comedy –

This riotous British coming-of-age comedy centers around Bernie Reubens, a twelve year-old London boy who is counting on his Bar Mitzvah to be the defining moment of his young life, and can't wait for the special day to arrive. For once, he figures, he'll finally be the center of attention! But it's the summer of '66, and England is about to be consumed by World Cup fever. Bernie's high hopes for his much-anticipated day are threatened when he learns that the World Cup final match is scheduled to take place in town on the same day. If the British team makes it to the final, who will show up for his Bar Mitzvah? A wonderful mix of nostalgia, comedy and pathos, *Sixty-six* features Helena Bonham Carter as Bernie's mother, and is based on director Paul Weiland's own experiences.

PG Saturday, November 29th at 9:15 PM



The Council for Jewish Education
is delighted to announce Calgary's first-ever

Jewish Life Fair

A Cornucopia of Calgary's Formal and Informal Jewish Educational Offerings

Join us in an exploration of Jewish Calgary:
Day Care, Preschools, Day Schools, Children's Programs, Adult Education,
Youth Programming / Clubs, Congregational Supplementary Programs,
Camps (day and sleep away), Senior's Programming, Clubs and
Private Bar / Bat Mitzvah Tutoring

Sunday, November 30

The Fair will be on-going all day from 10:00am

In co-operation with

Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival

We will be screening three award-winning films:

Little Heroes

An adventure story from Israel suitable for ages 9+ (10:30am screening)

Max Minsky and Me

A heart-warming coming-of-age comedy from Germany suitable for ages 8+
and the whole family (1:15pm screening)

And for our more mature audience (Grade 9+):

Heinini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School

An award-winning documentary chronicling a teenage girl's struggle to reconcile
her Jewish and sexual identities. This film is presented in collaboration with
Jewish Family Service Calgary

Join us for a post-screening Panel Discussion about the complex intersection
of Judaism, homosexuality and the desire for a pluralistic and inclusive Jewish
community. Panelists: Bev Scheckter, Executive Director, Jewish Family Service
Calgary, Lance Davis, Executive Director, Calgary Jewish Community Council.

Check out the following pages of the brochure for more details about the films.

8TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2008 - JEWISH LIFE FAIR

LITTLE HEROES

Israel 2006

Director: Itai Lev

Hebrew and Russian with English subtitles

76 minutes



Adventure/Youth –

Can we come to terms with who we are? Can we face what makes us different from others, and embrace it wholeheartedly? A group of four children learn to do just that when they embark on a courageous expedition to rescue the lives of two injured teenagers in the Negev desert. Erez is trying to live up to his recently-deceased father's legacy while fending off relentless bullies. Alicia and her special-needs brother, Lev, are recent immigrants from Russia trying to fit into their new home. And Lior is an outsider in his close-knit kibbutz. These four "social outsiders" bond together to form a heroic team, bridging the gaps between them and learning to face their fears to overcome challenges and adversity. One of the first feature films for children to be made in Israel, LITTLE HEROES explores themes faced by children worldwide - bullying, exclusion, worthiness and trust, and reminds us that even children can be heroes and make a difference.

*Golden Slipper for Best Feature Film, Zlin Int'l Film Festival for Children & Youth, Czech Republic
BAM Best Film Award, BAM Children Film Festival, New York,
Jury Award for Best Film, Cine Nueva Mirada Int'l Film Festival for Children, Buenos Aires
Audience Award, Terra di Siena Film Festival, Siena, Italy
Golden Mboni for Best Film, Lola Kenya Screen, Kenya -
Honorable Mention, Sprockets Toronto International Film Festival for Children*

G Sunday, November 30th at 10:30 AM

The screening of LITTLE HEROES
Is proudly co-sponsored by the
COUNCIL FOR JEWISH EDUCATION
An Initiative of CJCC



BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2008 - JEWISH LIFE FAIR

MAX MINSKY AND ME

Germany 2007

Director: Anna Justice

German with English subtitles

94 minutes



Comedy –

This heart-warming coming of age comedy that will appeal to the whole family takes us into the world of Nelly Sue Edelman, a brilliant thirteen-year old Berlin school girl with a love of astronomy and a hopeless crush on handsome Prince Edouard of Luxembourg, who also shares her fascination with outer space. Though her mom pushes her to practice for her fast-approaching Bat Mitzvah, Nelly is more fascinated by the mysteries of the cosmos than religion. When Nelly hears that the school basketball team is going to Luxembourg for a championship match, and that Prince Edouard is the master of ceremonies, she becomes determined to go. The only problem: she is hopeless at basketball. Desperate to capitalize on this opportunity to meet the Prince, she turns to school basketball ace, Max Minsky, for help. Navigating her parents' unravelling marriage, boys, basketball and her Bat Mitzvah, the teenaged Nelly must sort out her priorities as she tries to find her place in the world and discover what is important in life.

Grand Prix de Montréal - Montreal International Children's Film Festival 2008

Amsterdam 2007: Cinekid Lion Prize

Sarajevo 2007: Audience Award

G Sunday, November 30th at 1:15 PM

The screening of **MAX MINSKY AND ME**
Is proudly co-sponsored by the
COUNCIL FOR JEWISH EDUCATION
An Initiative of CJCC



8TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2008 - JEWISH LIFE FAIR

HINEINI: COMING OUT IN A JEWISH HIGH SCHOOL

USA 2005

Director: Irena Fayngold

English

60 minutes

Documentary –

Screened at over 60 film festivals worldwide, *Hineini* chronicles the poignant and inspiring story of one student's courageous fight to establish a gay-straight alliance at a Jewish high school in the Boston area and the transformative impact of her campaign on everyone involved. Shulamit Izen enters 9th grade longing to connect more deeply with her Jewish identity without denying her sexual identity. Using interviews with Shulamit, her family, teachers, and other students – both those who support her campaign and those who oppose it – the film allows the members of this community to express their feelings candidly. Beyond the struggle to create a supportive environment for gay and lesbian students and teachers at the school, what emerges is a potent story of a community wrestling with the very definition of inclusiveness, pluralism and diversity in a Jewish context – a community trying to balance the profound but conflicting needs of its members as navigates the cross-currents of Jewish tradition and social change.



Mature themes

Sunday, November 30th at 3:15 PM

Panel Discussion to follow screening

Panellists will include:

Lance Davis, Executive Director, Calgary Jewish Community Council

Bev Shekter, Executive Director, Jewish Family Service Calgary

The screening of HINEINI
Is proudly co-sponsored by the
COUNCIL FOR JEWISH EDUCATION
An Initiative of CJCC



Presented in co-operation with
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE CALGARY



BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2008 - CLOSING NIGHT

CIRCUMCISE ME: THE COMEDY OF YISRAEL CAMPBELL

USA 2007

Directors: David Blumenfeld & Matthew Kalman

English

44 min

Comedy/Documentary –

"Is it hot in here, or am I the only one dressed for Poland in the 17th century?" Yisrael Campbell looks more like a rabbi than a comedian, but don't be fooled by the big black hat, frock coat and Hasidic side-curls.

Born Chris Campbell, the son of an ex-nun and a Catholic schoolteacher, he converted to Judaism not once, but three times - Reform, Conservative and Orthodox. His spiritual journey began as a drug-drenched teenager in Philadelphia and ended in Jerusalem among the suicide bombs of the Palestinian intifada. So what's to laugh about? It's the way he tells it. *Circumcise Me* is a hilarious, searching and moving story of one man's quest to find meaning in religion.



PG Sunday, November 30th at 7:00 PM

GALILEE ESKIMOS

Israel 2007

Director: Jonathan Paz

Hebrew with English subtitles

99 minutes

Comedy/Drama –

Facing bankruptcy, an isolated and debt-ridden kibbutz in Northern Israel is abandoned by its residents the night before the bailiffs arrive. But in their rush to save all their worldly possessions, the kibbutzniks forget the residents of the old people's home. Twelve senior citizens awake to find themselves abandoned, and forced to fend for themselves.

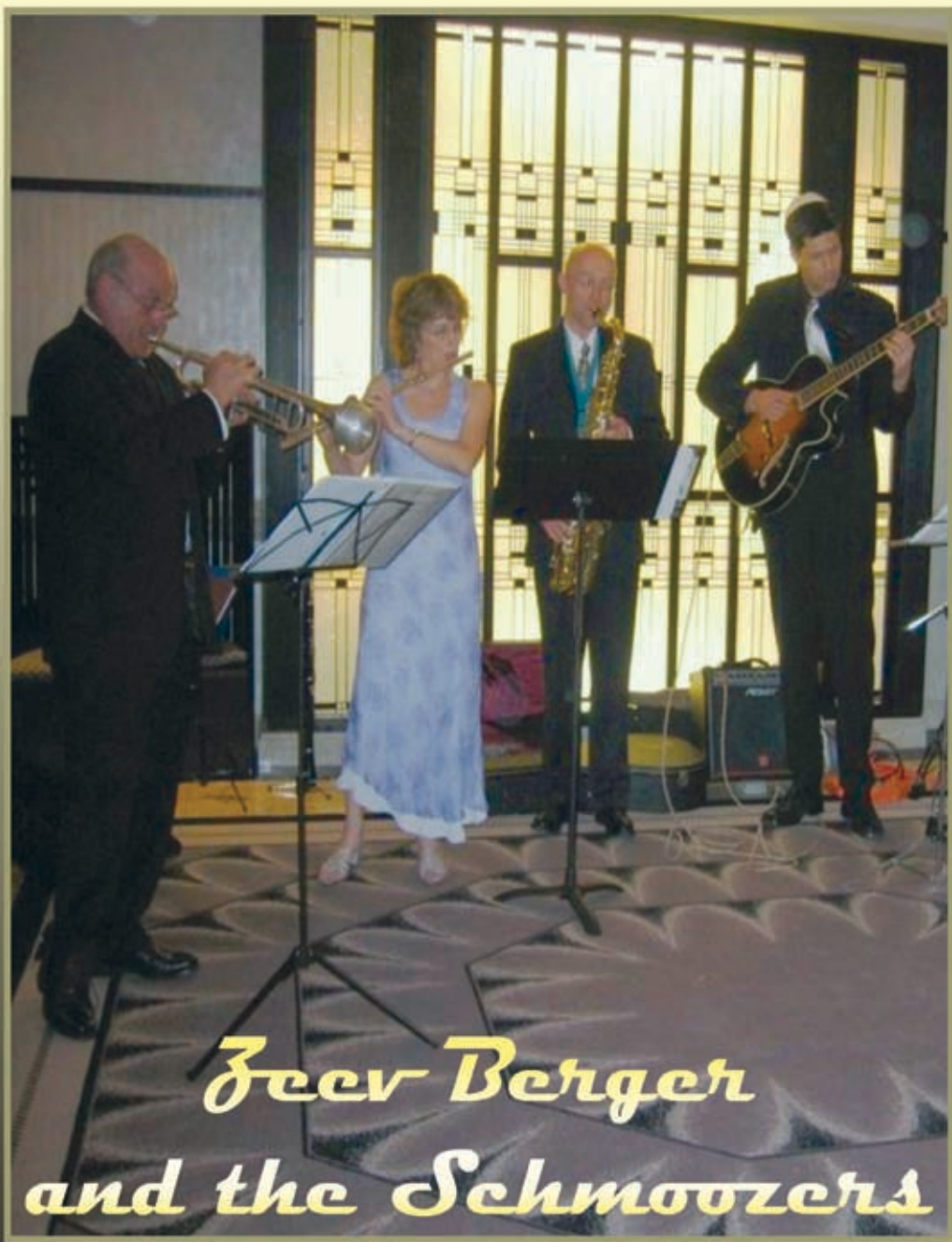
Never ones to be daunted, the old-timers band

together to confront their circumstances, reigniting within themselves their fiery pioneer spirit, idealism and vision. Refusing to act like old Eskimos who go off to die in the snow, they take a stand to save the kibbutz which they had founded 60 years ago. Based on a story written by the film's Director, himself a former kibbutznik, and film-scripted by leading Israeli playwright Joshua Sobol, *The Galilee Eskimos* is a satisfying mix of comedy and bittersweet commentary - a loving swan-song for the kibbutz ideal.

Audience Award for Best Feature, Berlin Jewish Film Festival
Bronze Phoenix Feature Film, Warsaw Jewish Film Festival

PG Sunday, November 30th at 8:00 PM





*Zeev Berger
and the Schmoozers*

*will pay tribute to Israeli and Jewish music on
Saturday Nov. 1st, 8th, 22nd, and 29th, at 6.30, and during
the closing dinner on Sunday the 30th of November*

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Jewish Book Fair

at the Film Festival

Date

Sunday November 30

Place

Beth Tzedec Synagogue

For more information
contact Erika Postel
at epostel@cjcc.ca or
403.537.8594

The JCC Jewish Book Fair is pleased to be a part of the
First Annual Family Day at the Jewish Film Festival.



www.calgaryjcc.com

8TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Alexandra Cyngiser

Lilach Adler, Tel Aviv

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Ze'ev Berger

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Anita Bustos, Homes by Avi

Marie-Soliel Courcy, Montreal

Lance Davis, Executive Director CJCC

Ruth Diskin, Jerusalem

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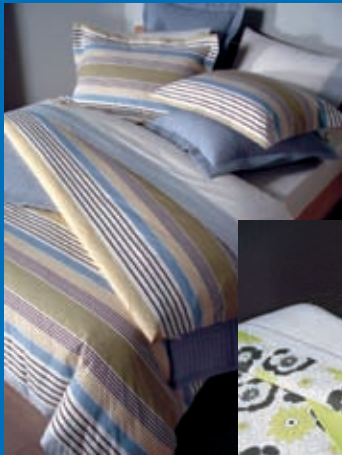
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ARTIST'S STATEMENT BY LILY ROSENBERG

I have been playing with watercolor for many years but only recently discovered how much fun and relaxing it can be. A wonderful teacher, Deanna Thibault in Tucson, Arizona, lit my fire and I was able to find my own style.



I begin by selecting bright colors that are vibrant and then apply them wet on wet onto the paper. I let the colors guide me as I paint. I then do a contour drawing of my subject with a marker. I look for shapes to create a composition that appeals to me and add values of dark and light to create a musical rhythm and flow of colour. Finally, I superimpose a collage of fabrics and check to see if the painting sings to me...if it does, I know it is complete.

Artwork will be on display
at the festival.

lilyrosenberg@shaw.ca

8TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

ADMISSION TO THE FESTIVAL

A PASS FOR THE ENTIRE FESTIVAL

(includes all films, guest speakers and receptions)

\$55 per person prior to November 1st
(**\$65** at the door)

SINGLE SESSION

(one full afternoon or evening of films)

\$18 per person

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

\$20 for the entire festival

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Free

JEWISH LIFE FAIR

(includes all morning and afternoon films)

\$10 per adult (children and youth are free)

All films will be screened at the
BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION
1325 GLENMORE TRAIL S.W.

Please call the synagogue office at
255-8688

Dinner and a Movie

For your convenience, why not stay for a bite between the afternoon and evening screenings, browse through the Jewish Life Fair Exhibits

Then join us for a casual dinner
Accompanied by a LIVE performance featuring

ZEEV BERGER AND THE SHMOOZERS



Tickets for the meal are \$18 per person
and must be pre-purchased by November 26th

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

7:30 PM THE BEETLE
9:20 PM NOODLE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

1:00 PM PRAYING WITH LIOR
3:10 PM BLESSED IS THE MATCH
7:00 PM THE LITTLE TRAITOR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

7:00 PM THE SECRETS
9:30 PM JELLYFISH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

1:00 PM TO SEE IF I'M SMILING
2:10 PM FACING THE WIND
3:30 PM THE FIRST BASKET
7:00 PM AS SEEN THROUGH THESE EYES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

7:00 PM BEAUFORT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

7:00 PM THE CHAMPAGNE SPY
9:00 PM THE DEBT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

1:00 PM FOUR SEASONS LODGE
3:00 PM OCHBERG'S ORPHANS
4:00 PM MY FATHER MY LORD
7:00 PM REFUSENIK

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

7:00 PM THE YEAR MY PARENTS WENT ON VACATION
9:15 PM SIXTY-SIX

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

10:30 AM LITTLE HEROES
1:15 PM MAX MINSKY AND ME
3:15 PM HINEINI
7:00 PM CIRCUMCISE ME
8:00 PM GALILEE ESKIMOS



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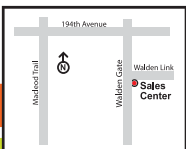
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