



BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION - CALGARY, ALBERTA
NOVEMBER 1-18, 2018

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Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival

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18TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

November 1-18, 2018

Welcome to the 18th Annual Beth Tzedec Calgary Jewish Film Festival!

We're proud, once again, to bring you an exciting line-up of outstanding films from Israel and around the world that explore and celebrate the richness and diversity of the Jewish experience.

We're delighted to have Calgary Jewish Federation join us as co-sponsors of the screening of *Above the Drowning Sea*, a moving documentary that tells the remarkable story of how thousands of European Jews found refuge in Shanghai on the eve of WWII. Presented in co-operation with the Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre, this event will be a wonderful opportunity to share a special evening with the local Chinese community, and to welcome them into our community.

Calgary Jewish Federation will also be co-sponsoring the screening of our Closing Night film *Who Will Write our History*, in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht. We're thrilled to have award-winning filmmaker Roberta Grossman, writer, producer and director of this captivating documentary as our special guest that evening.

Another special guest that you won't want to miss is baseball player Cody Decker, a member of Team Israel - the baseball team that represented Israel at the 2017 World Baseball Classic. Cody will be present at the screening of the rousing documentary *Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel*.

We're delighted to have Canadian Hadassah-WIZO Calgary Centre join us as co-sponsors of the inspiring film *93 Queen*, and extremely pleased to have Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel join us as co-sponsors of the action-packed Israeli docu-drama *Rescue: Bus300*.

We feel honored by The Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta's choice of our film festival, once again, as the venue for their annual Jay Joffe Memorial Program. JHSSA will be co-sponsoring the screening of the stirring documentary *GI Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II*.

This year's "Dr. Ralph Gurevitch Tikkun Olam Screening" will feature the film *RBG*, and this year's "Dr. Martha Cohen Memorial Screening" will feature the films *The Last Suit* and *Here and Now*.

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.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my hard-working committee for all the time and effort they've put into planning this year's festival.

We hope that you'll enjoy the festival, and that this year's selection of exceptional films will move and inspire you, entertain and delight you, enlighten and challenge you!

- Harvey Cyngiser

FILM FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

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PROMISE AT DAWN

France 2017

Director: Eric Barbier

French with English subtitles

131 minutes

Drama

From his impoverished childhood in Poland, and sun-soaked adolescence in Nice, to his exploits as a fighter pilot in Africa and Europe during World War II, renowned French writer Romain Gary lived an extraordinary life—decorated military officer, diplomat and two-time winner of the Prix Goncourt, France's highest literary award. Yet he owed this determination to live a thousand lives, to become a great man and famous writer, to his mother Nina. For it was the overwhelming love that this endearing, eccentric woman showered upon him throughout her life that would drive him to become one of the 20th century's most celebrated novelists, a man who led a life filled with adventure, passion and mystery. But her boundless maternal love would also be his burden to bear for life. This epic drama is the film adaptation of Romain Gary's acclaimed autobiographical novel of the same name.

Thursday, November 1st at 7:00 PM

Brief nudity



93 QUEEN

USA 2018

Director: Paula Eiselt

English

86 minutes

Documentary

Set in the Hasidic enclave of Borough Park, Brooklyn, this inspiring documentary follows Rachel "Ruchie" Freier, a no-nonsense Hasidic lawyer and mother of six, who is determined to shake up the "boys club" in her community - risking her reputation and future in the process - by creating the first all-female ambulance corps in New York City. With unprecedented and insider access to this insular community, **93 Queen** offers a unique portrayal of a group of tenacious Hasidic women, led by Ruchie, who are challenging the patriarchal status quo in their community to create change from within. In the midst of this already ground-breaking endeavor, Ruchie announces that she has decided to take her burgeoning feminism even further: She has entered the race for civil court judge in Brooklyn's 5th Municipal Court District. Through it all, we see these empowered women persevering in the face of fierce opposition, while grappling to balance their faith with their nascent feminism as they are confronted by the patriarchal attitudes that so dominate Hasidic society.

Sunday, November 4th at 1:00 PM



Children
Healthcare
Women

Proudly co-sponsored by
**CANADIAN HADASSAH-WIZO
CALGARY CENTRE**



RESCUE: BUS 300

Israel 2018

Director: Rotem Shamir

Hebrew with English subtitles

75 minutes

Docu-Drama

Based on actual events, this intense, action-packed docu-drama brings to life the gripping true story of the April 12th, 1984 hijacking of bus line #300, while en route from Tel Aviv to Ashkelon. When the bus is commandeered by four armed Palestinian terrorists, the passengers onboard – innocent civilians – are thrust into the midst of a terrifying ordeal as the bus speeds toward the Gaza strip – and toward a dangerous and uncertain fate for them. Interweaving cinematic re-enactments, archival material and candid present-day interviews with many of the actual participants of the harrowing ordeal, this suspenseful thriller captures the human, military and political drama that unfolds inside and outside the bus over the ensuing tension-filled hours until a daring, pre-dawn rescue operation is mounted by an elite IDF special forces unit. Recounting the incident from multiple perspectives, the film also casts light on what would later become known as the “Bus 300 Affair”- one of the most serious scandals in the history of Israel’s Shin Bet secret service - which arose in the aftermath of the hijacking and would rattle Israeli society for years to come.

Sunday, November 4th at 2:40 PM



Canadian
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TOUCHING THE SKY

Israel 2018

Directors: Ilanit Bauman, Enav Shenhar, Idan Shavit & Tamar Tal-Anati

Hebrew with English subtitles

65 minutes

Documentary

Touching the Sky follows a select few ambitious young women on an unforgettable journey. They have each been accepted into one of the IDF's most exclusive programs: the Israeli Air Force's prestigious pilot training course - and each of them dreams of reaching the sky. Although female Israeli soldiers have had the right to enlist in the course for over twenty years, only a few have ever earned their wings. The gender issue still continues to be a major topic for the cadets, the course's commanders and within society at large. With unprecedented access to the flight academy, the camera accompanies these determined young women during the first six intense and turbulent months of the rigorous and demanding course, from their first day at the academy through the ruthless cuts along the way - some will stay the course, but most will be forced to leave.

Sunday, November 4th at 4:10 PM

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

Sunday, November 4, 2018



ABOVE THE DROWNING SEA

Canada 2017

Directors: Rene Balcer, Nicola Zavaglia

English & Chinese with English subtitles

92 minutes

Documentary

On the eve of World War II, tens of thousands of Jewish refugees were trapped in Nazi-controlled Vienna. This stirring documentary tells the epic story of their dramatic escape to an unlikely safe haven in far-away China - the city of Shanghai - at a time when all other doors were closed to them. Sanctuary was provided thanks to the courageous intervention of Chinese diplomat Ho Feng Shan, the Chinese consul in Vienna, who defied the Nazis and his own government by issuing travel visas to the desperate refugees. In Shanghai, an "open city" that was itself in chaos from foreign invasion and civil war, the Jewish refugees would find safety and acceptance, living among their Chinese neighbours. Filmed in six countries over four continents, and narrated by Julianna Margulies, this remarkable story is brought to life through the vivid recollections of a number of the Jewish refugees and the Chinese neighbours who sheltered them, as they recount their experiences and tell of the exceptional friendships forged across cultures - friendships that survive to this day. Particularly timely in the context of today's global refugee crisis, this inspiring film celebrates the moral courage and humanity of ordinary people caught in extraordinary circumstances.

Sunday, November 4th at 7:15 PM



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18TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Saturday, November 10, 2018



THE DR. MARTHA COHEN MEMORIAL SCREENING

THE LAST SUIT

Argentina/Spain 2017

Director: Pablo Solarz

Spanish with English subtitles

89 minutes

Drama

Abraham Bursztein, an elderly Jewish tailor living in Buenos Aires, is seeing his place in the world rapidly disappear. With his family intent on putting him out to pasture and confining him to a nursing home, the 88-year-old Holocaust survivor realizes that the time has come to fulfill a promise he made over 70 years earlier. Without his family's knowledge, he secretly embarks on a journey that will take him from Argentina to Spain, across France and Germany, and finally to his native Poland. On his own, but also accompanied by the generous strangers he meets along the way, Abraham is on a special quest: - he is in search of the man who once saved his life, at the end of World War II. Approaching its weighty themes with a light touch, this charming film is comedic and poignant in equal measure - a globe-trotting, late-in-life road movie with planes, trains and heart.

Saturday, November 10th at 7:00 PM

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DR. MARTHA COHEN BEQUEST

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BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

Saturday, November 10, 2018



THE DR. MARTHA COHEN MEMORIAL SCREENING

HERE AND NOW

Israel 2018

Director: Roman Shumanov

Russian & Hebrew with English subtitles

87 minutes

Drama

This compelling social drama is told through the eyes of Andrey, a young Russian immigrant living with his little sister in a disadvantaged neighborhood in the city of Ashdod, and struggling to assimilate into Israeli society. Together with three of his best friends, also immigrants, they form a hip-hop band. Against the bleak reality of their daily lives in a part of town beset with violence and criminal activity, making music is an outlet for them - their lyrics are filled with the frustrations and humiliations of living on the socio-economic margins of Israeli society. Aspiring to participate in an international music festival, they hope that winning the competition will allow them to make their voices heard, to change their lives for the better. But their dream of competing in the festival is all but shattered when Andrey suffers a crisis at home. With compassion, sensitivity and a feeling of authenticity, this heartfelt and affecting film follows Andrey as he struggles to navigate a path forward amid the mounting pressures and dilemmas facing him.

Winner - Best Music, Israeli Academy Awards 2018

Nominated - 3 Israeli Academy Awards 2018, including Best Actor

Saturday, November 10th at 8:50 PM

Scenes of violence

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Beth Tzedec Congregation

18TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Sunday, November 11, 2018



CHEWDAISM: A TASTE OF JEWISH MONTREAL

Canada 2018

Directors: Jamie Elman & Eli Batalion

English

62 minutes

Documentary

Offering us a mouth watering taste of Montreal's unique brand of Jewish cuisine, this lively and entertaining documentary follows Montreal natives Jamie Elman and Eli Batalion, creators and stars of the award-winning YidLife Crisis comedy web series, as they set out to discover the fascinating story of Jewish Montreal through an entire day's worth of eating in and around the city. Through a series of classical Jewish eateries - from Schwartz's Deli and Wilensky's to Fairmount Bagels and Cheskie's Heimishe Bakery - they uncover the immigrant roots of the city's Jewish community, unfolding a rich social history of the community over the last 100 years, with various guests along the way sharing tales and meals. From Montreal's classic smoked meat sandwiches and its iconic bagels to traditional Sephardic cuisine and more modern and innovative fare, the film celebrates the diversity and rich history of Montreal's Jewish community, and the city's vibrant - and still evolving - Jewish culinary scene.

Sunday, November 11th at 1:00 PM



GI JEWS: JEWISH AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR II

USA 2017

Director: Lisa Ades

English

87 minutes

Documentary

GI JEWS tells the profound and unique story of the 550,000 Jewish men and women who served in World War II. Through the eyes of the servicemen and women, the film brings to life the little-known story of Jews in World War II – as active participants in the fight against Hitler, bigotry and intolerance. These brave men and women fought for their nation and their people, for America and for Jews worldwide. Like all Americans, they fought against fascism, but they also waged a more personal fight—to save their brethren in Europe. In the midst of it all, they fought a second, more private battle, against anti-Semitism within the ranks. They emerged transformed, more powerfully American and more deeply Jewish, determined to continue the fight for equality and tolerance at home.

Sunday, November 11th at 2:15 PM



Proudly co-sponsored by the
JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA



THE JAY JOFFE MEMORIAL PROGRAM OF THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

The Jay Joffe Memorial Program was launched by the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta (JHSSA) in 2009 to honour the memory of its long-serving founding president, Jay Joffe (1931-2006).

This program is dedicated to featuring and promoting Jewish history and culture.

The directors of JHSSA are pleased to continue their support of the Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival through the co-sponsorship of *GI Jews*. Jay Joffe was passionate about bringing Jewish history to the widest possible audience. He was proud of the many contributions Jews had made in so many fields and hoped to increase awareness of these accomplishments. This year's program features the stories of the sacrifices and the achievements made by American Jews throughout their military service in WW II. In general, the story of the Canadian Jewish military experience was not very different.



BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

Sunday, November 11, 2018



INSIDE THE MOSSAD

Israel/Germany 2018

Director: Duki Dror

Hebrew with English subtitles

90 minutes

Documentary

Israel's legendary Mossad, one of the most highly esteemed intelligence agencies in the world, has been almost completely sealed off to the media since its founding nearly seven decades ago. Now, for the first time, a number of the Mossad's spy-chiefs and operatives have agreed to be interviewed. These rare and intimate interviews give us a first-hand perspective of their inner work, the personal and operational challenges they overcame, and the moral and ethical dilemmas they faced. Uncovering the personal truths that lie behind the Israeli Mossad's mythical image, this intriguing documentary offers us new insights into some of the top-secret operations that have shaped Israel's past and may yet shape its future.

Sunday, November 11th at 4:00 PM

18TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Sunday, November 11, 2018



HEADING HOME: THE TALE OF TEAM ISRAEL

USA /Israel/Japan/South Korea 2018

Director: Seth Kramer, Daniel A. Miller & Jeremy Newberger

English

87 minutes

Documentary

A stirring story of sports, patriotism and personal growth, *Heading Home* charts the underdog journey of Israel's national baseball team as it competes for the first time in the World Baseball Classic. After years of crushing defeats, Team Israel finally ranked among the world's best in 2017, making it eligible to play in the prestigious international tournament. The team's line-up includes many Jewish Americans from Major League Baseball teams - most of whom have a tenuous relationship to Judaism, with barely any of them having ever set foot in Israel before. Their odyssey takes them from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, where they are greeted as heroes, to the tournament in South Korea, where - with all the odds stacked against them - the players' new-found connection to Israel pushes them to unexpected heights and they discover the pride of representing Israel on the world stage.

Sunday, November 11th at 7:15 PM



SPECIAL GUEST:

Cody Decker - Team Israel outfielder and film subject

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

Saturday, November 17, 2018



SHOELACES

Israel 2018

Director: Jacob Goldwasser

Hebrew with English subtitles

98 minutes

Drama

Mixing gentle humour with tender moments, this touching and life-affirming film tells the story of a complicated relationship between Reuben, an aging father, and Gadi, his 38-year-old special-needs son. Gadi's father hasn't been a part of his life since he was a young boy, but after the sudden death of Gadi's mother, he is temporarily placed in the care of the estranged father that he barely knows. Initially reluctant to take on the responsibility of caring for the son he has avoided all these years, Reuben slowly discovers that having Gadi back in his life has awoken something inside of him. Their rekindled relationship will set them each on a path of personal growth, as they face the challenges that life holds in store for them.

Winner – Best Supporting Actor (Dova'le Glickman), Israeli Academy Awards 2018

Nominated – 8 Israeli Academy Awards 2018 including Best Picture & Best Director

Saturday, November 17th at 7:00 PM

18TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Saturday, November 17, 2018



THE CAKEMAKER

Israel/Germany 2017

Director: Ofir Raul Graizer

Hebrew, German & English with English subtitles

104 minutes

Drama

Thomas, a young, gay, German pastry chef, is having an affair with Oren, an Israeli married man who has frequent business visits in Berlin. Feeling lost and grief-stricken after learning that Oren has been killed in a car accident in Israel, Thomas travels to Jerusalem seeking closure and solace. There, without revealing his secret, he takes a job in the cafe run by his lover's widow, Anat, and soon finds himself involved in Anat's life in a way far beyond his anticipation. Drawn to one another, each finds a refuge in each other's company—their unwittingly shared grief binding them in ways neither fully understands. Delicate, restrained and genuinely affecting, *The Cakemaker* is a subtly-written meditation on love, loss and the human need to connect with one another – a tale of two people trying to start anew after tragedy and live their lives unburdened by national, sexual or religious boundaries. This critically-acclaimed film will be Israel's submission to the 2019 Oscars for Best Foreign Language Film.

Winner – 6 Israeli Academy Awards 2018 including Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay

Winner – Best Actress (Sarah Adler), Israeli Academy Awards 2018

Winner – Ecumenical Jury Award, Karlovy Vary Int'l FF 2017

Winner – Best Editing and The Lia Van Leer Award, Jerusalem Int'l FF 2017

Saturday, November 17th at 9:00 PM

Mature themes, sexuality, brief nudity



THE DR. RALPH GUREVITCH TIKKUN OLAM SCREENING
"Repairing the World"

RBG

USA 2018

Directors: Julie Cohen, Betsy West

English

97 minutes

Documentary

At the age of 85, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has created an impressive and enduring legal legacy, while also becoming an unexpected intergenerational heroine and pop culture icon. Delving into her personal life and exceptional career, this revelatory documentary explores Ginsburg's unique personal journey - from her early years through to her rise to America's highest court - and highlights her ground-breaking achievements, as a young lawyer, in the advancement of gender equality and the enormous impact that her trailblazing legal career has had in helping to lay the foundation for the modern women's rights movement. With unprecedented access to Ginsburg's personal life outside the court, directors Betsy West and Julie Cohen expertly interweave Ginsburg's speeches and writings with archival footage, exclusive home movies and interviews with family, friends, colleagues and Ginsburg herself, to create a captivating and intimate portrait of a remarkable woman who has dedicated herself to fighting for equality and social justice.

Sunday, November 18th at 1:00 PM

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A LAND WITHOUT BORDERS

Israel 2017

Directors: Michael Alulu, Nir Baram

Hebrew & English

62 minutes

Documentary

Award-winning Israeli writer Nir Baram grew up in a political household. Both his father and grandfather were former members of the Knesset and ministers in previous governments. As Baram begins to lose faith in the possibility of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he decides to travel throughout the West Bank - with an open mind - to speak with both the Palestinians and the Israeli settlers living there. This thought-provoking documentary, based on his best-selling book of the same name, follows Baram on his journey as he seeks to gain an honest perspective and to examine, as earnestly as possible, the connection between his political views and the complex reality on the ground. He asks hard questions, and the surprising revelations force Baram to challenge his entire political belief system and re-evaluate his hopes for a peaceful resolution to this conflict.

Winner - Best Documentary, Israeli Academy Awards 2018

Sunday, November 18th at 2:55 PM



WINTER HUNT

Germany 2017

Director: Astrid Schult

German with English subtitles

74 minutes

Psychological Thriller

On a cold, wintry night, a young woman shows up on the doorstep of the Rossberg family home, an isolated mansion on a remote road in the German countryside. The young woman, Lena, claims that her car has broken down, but her arrival is in fact intentional - she is on mission of vigilante justice. Lena is in pursuit of Anselm Rossberg, an aged former Auschwitz guard accused of war crimes, who lives with his daughter Maria. Anselm and Maria both deny Anselm's Nazi past, and Lena's efforts to extract a confession at gunpoint soon lead to a twisted cat-and-mouse game. This taut psychological thriller will keep you on the edge of your seat as the three characters enter a tense standoff fraught with moral complexities and shocking revelations.

Sunday, November 18th at 4:10 PM



WHO WILL WRITE OUR HISTORY

USA 2018

Director: Roberta Grossman

English, Yiddish & Polish with English subtitles

94 minutes

Documentary

In November 1940, days after the Nazis sealed 450,000 Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto, a secret band of journalists, scholars and community leaders decided to fight back. Led by historian Emanuel Ringelblum and known by the code name Oyneg Shabes, this clandestine group vowed to defeat Nazi lies and propaganda not with guns or fists but with pen and paper. Now, for the first time, their story is told as a feature documentary. Written, produced and directed by award-winning filmmaker Roberta Grossman and Executive Produced by Nancy Spielberg, this powerfully moving film masterfully interweaves the writings of the Oyneg Shabes archive with new interviews, rarely seen footage and stunning dramatizations, to transport us inside the Ghetto and into the lives of these courageous resistance fighters who defied their murderous enemy with the ultimate weapon - the truth - and risked everything so that their archive would survive the war, even if they themselves did not.

Sunday, November 18th at 7:15 PM



SPECIAL GUEST:

Roberta Grossman - Director, Writer & Producer



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In commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of Kristallnacht

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Canadian Hadassah-WIZO Calgary Centre is proud to participate in The Beth Tzedec Calgary Jewish Film Festival. We are proud of our members, donors and friends for their continued support for over 100 years of our various programs and services for *Children*, *Healthcare* and *Women* in Israel and Canada.

At this year's Film Festival, kindly drop off a toy, book, movie pass, or gift certificate for our 16th Annual Toy Drive for Calgary's most needy boys and girls between the ages of baby to 16.

For further information visit chw.ca/calgary or call the Calgary Centre at 403-253-4612.



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The Calgary Chapter of Canadian Magen David Adom is proud to be part of this event.

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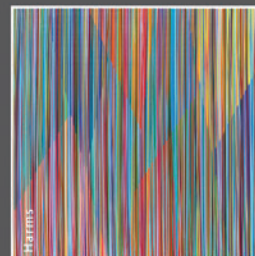
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Newzones
Fall 2018



SEPTEMBER

Bradley Harms

Samantha Walrod



OCTOBER

Anda Kubis

Don Maynard



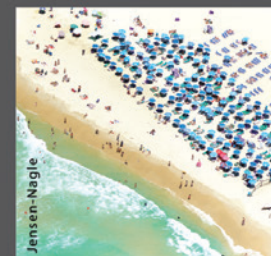
NOVEMBER

Kevin Sonmor

"Deck the Walls!"



UPCOMING 2019



www.newzones.com

730 11th Avenue SW
Calgary AB T2R 0E4
(403) 266-1972
info@newzones.com



Original Art By
LILY ROSENBERG

"Yellow Trees"
15" x 11", acrylic

Artwork will be on display at the Festival.
lilyrosenberg613@gmail.com • www.lilyrosenberg.com



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See you at
Film Festival
Thursday, November 1
Sunday, November 4

18TH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

November 1-18, 2018

ADMISSION TO THE FESTIVAL

A PASS FOR THE ENTIRE FESTIVAL

Includes all films, guest speakers and receptions
\$75 per person prior to November 1st
(\$85 at the door)

SINGLE SESSION

One full afternoon or evening of films
\$20 per person

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

\$20 for the entire festival

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Free

All films will be screened at the
BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION
1325 Glenmore Trail S.W.

Festival Passes may be purchased at the synagogue office.

Please call:
403-255-8688

Or visit us online at:
www.CalgaryJewishFilmFestival.com



FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

7:00 PM Promise at Dawn

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

1:00 PM 93 Queen
2:40 PM Rescue: Bus 300
4:10 PM Touching The Sky
7:15 PM Above The Drowning Sea

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

7:00 PM The Last Suit
8:50 PM Here and Now

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

1:00 PM Chewdaism: A Taste of Jewish Montreal
2:15 PM Gi Jews: Jewish Americans In World War II
4:00 PM Inside the Mossad
7:15 PM Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

7:00 PM Shoelaces
9:00 PM The Cakemaker

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

1:00 PM RBG
2:55 PM A Land Without Borders
4:10 PM Winter Hunt
7:15 PM Who Will Write Our History



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Avi Amir, Chairman



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