



CALGARY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



INCITEMENT

Israel 2019
Director: Yaron Zilberman
Hebrew with English subtitles
123 minutes

Drama/Psychological Thriller

The tragic assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995 was a watershed moment in Israeli history. This engrossing drama depicts the lead-up to the assassination through the eyes and worldview of his assassin, Yigal Amir - a promising young law student and religiously observant Jew who opposed the Oslo Accords. How did a relatively normative right-wing activist become a cold-blooded political assassin? What can be learned from his journey which, despite having occurred more than two decades ago, remains more relevant than ever in our own time? Grappling with these questions, acclaimed Israeli writer-director Yaron Zilberman chronicles Amir's radicalization and disturbing descent from a hot-headed political activist into an ultranationalist and dangerous extremist consumed by anger and delusions of grandeur. Winner of the 2019 Israeli Academy Award for Best Film and Israel's submission to the 2020 Oscars for Best International Feature Film, Incitement is a gripping and unnerving look through the eyes of a murderer who silenced a powerful voice for peace, and a timely cautionary tale about the threat posed to democratic societies when political leaders employ hate-filled rhetoric, divisiveness and incitement to advance their political and ideological agendas.

Winner – Best Film & Best Casting, Israeli Academy Awards 2019
Nominated – 10 Israeli Academy Awards 2019

Saturday, November 7th starting at 7:00 PM



ONCE UPON A BOY

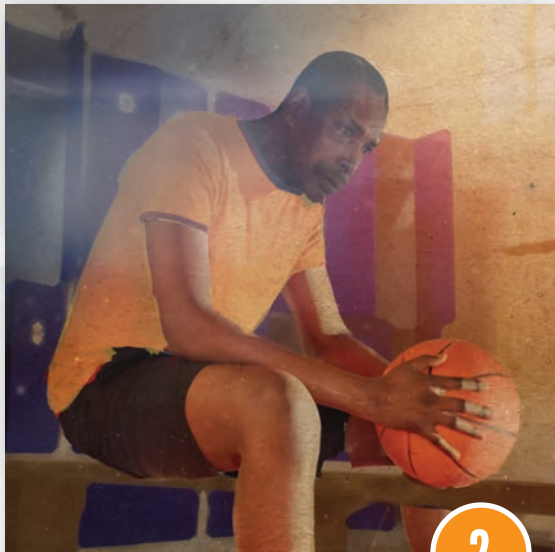
Israel 2019
Director: Uri Levi
Hebrew with English subtitles
65 minutes

Documentary

The Hessing family copes with the day-to-day challenges of life while raising three children, among them Ron, who has cerebral palsy. Ron is intelligent, charming and full of life, but every day, his movements are becoming increasingly limited. This, while he watches his twin brother run and play soccer with their younger sibling. The film follows this remarkable family's struggles as the parents do everything in their power to raise three children who are happy with their lot, despite the unfathomable gap between them. A daring trip to the US to undergo a complex surgical procedure to halt the progress of the disease reveals different approaches to life. With sensitivity and remarkable honesty, this life-affirming documentary skillfully captures the dynamics of a family faced with the complexities of raising children with different abilities, and offers us a rare and intimate look at the incredible power of a loving family to overcome any obstacle together, and to embrace and live with one's fate.

Winner – Special Jury Award, DocAviv Int'l FF 2019
Winner – Audience Award, DocAviv Int'l FF 2019

Tuesday, November 10th starting at 7:00 PM



AULCIE

Israel 2019
Director: Dani Menkin
English & Hebrew with English subtitles
72 minutes

Documentary

In 1976, Aulcie Perry, a gifted African-American athlete, was playing basketball in Harlem when scouts from Israel's Maccabi Tel Aviv team spotted and recruited him. A year later, he helped lead the team to their first historic European Championship win, and soon after that, converted to Judaism, changed his name to Elisha Ben Abraham, and become an Israeli citizen. His rise to fame was precipitous, and his relationship with supermodel Tami Ben Ami became the subject of relentless media attention, solidifying his status as one of Israel's biggest stars. But behind the scenes, not all was well. A growing drug addiction would lead him on a self-destructive path. When his charmed life came to a dramatic halt, he was forced to confront his own demons and his fall from grace – paying dearly for his mistakes. Executive produced by Nancy Spielberg and directed by award-winning Israeli filmmaker Dani Menkin, this compelling documentary film tells the redemptive and inspiring story of a remarkable athlete, and how he ultimately triumphs, despite the odds.

Sunday, November 8th starting at 7:00 PM



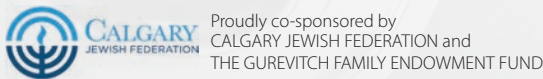
SHARED LEGACIES: THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN JEWISH CIVIL RIGHTS ALLIANCE

USA 2020
Director: Shari Rogers
English
95 minutes

Documentary

This timely documentary tells the story of the alliance and friendship between the Jewish and African-American communities during the long history of the civil rights struggle in America, revisiting pivotal moments and key figures dating back to the founding of the NAACP in 1909. With both groups having endured racism and bigotry, common cause was found during the turbulent '60s Civil Rights era, as Jewish leaders backed Martin Luther King's efforts at achieving racial equality. Although that relationship has frayed in recent years, as a once mighty bond of support and respect has seemingly faded and been forgotten, the stories of cooperation, empathy and brotherhood from that era remain a source of inspiration today. The lessons learned from that proud chapter in modern American history, when two communities of different backgrounds collaborated to transform the moral conscience of a nation, remain as relevant as ever today amidst the divisive seeds of hate taking root anew in the American landscape and the Black Lives Matter movement's outcry against racial injustice that has swept across cities in North America and around the world in recent months.

Wednesday, November 11th starting at 7:00 PM



THE ESSENTIAL LINK: THE STORY OF WILFRID ISRAEL

Israel 2017
Director: Yonatan Nir
English, Hebrew & German with English subtitles
71 minutes

Documentary

This intriguing documentary brings to light the little-known story of Wilfrid Israel, a remarkable individual who has been largely forgotten by history despite his having been instrumental in saving the lives of thousands of Jews in Nazi Germany, and playing a key role in initiating and organizing the Kindertransport rescue operation that transported thousands of Jewish children to safety in Britain. A wealthy Jewish businessman and avid art collector, Israel was a member of one of Germany's most prominent Jewish families and was acquainted with some of the most influential figures of the 20th century. Yet, curiously, little is known about his personal life and heroic endeavors. Why did his story remain untold? What was there to hide? Unraveling the elusive mystery behind this unsung hero becomes personal for award-winning filmmaker Yonatan Nir (Dolphin Boy, My Hero Brother, Picture of his Life), as he takes us on an adventure in search of this extraordinary man, and the real reasons for his disappearance from history.

Monday, November 9th starting at 7:00 PM

Screening of the film THE ESSENTIAL LINK is open to the entire community at NO CHARGE as part of our community-wide KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION



THOU SHALT NOT HATE

Italy/Poland 2020
Director: Mauro Mancini
Italian with English subtitles
95 minutes

Drama

A visually stunning debut feature film by Director Mauro Mancini, Thou Shalt Not Hate begins when a doctor who is the son of a Holocaust survivor attempts to rescue a car-crash victim. Noticing a tattooed swastika on the chest of the seriously injured man, the physician chooses to withhold life-saving care. Guilt arising from this fatal choice eventually leads him to the children of the man he's abandoned – and a demand for retribution. Recently premiered during Critics' Week at the prestigious Venice Biennale International Film Festival, this Italian-Polish co-production is more notable for silence than dialogue as it explores what Mancini described in cineuropa interview as "human contradictions," adding "I wanted what the characters don't say to one another to be more important than what they do say. I wanted the fundamental grammar of this film to be represented by silences, looks, pauses between one line and the next, the protagonists' secret thoughts . . . a total stripping back, to lend strength to the unsaid and the smaller details." This art house film will thrill those with a taste for the Felliniesque.

Thursday, November 12th starting at 7:00 PM

Single tickets are \$12 per film or purchase a Festival Pass and watch all 12 films for just \$36.

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7TH-19TH, 2020**

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ASIA

Israel 2020
Director: Ruthy Pribar
Hebrew & Russian with English subtitles
88 minutes

Drama

Shira Haas, Emmy Award-nominated star of the acclaimed Netflix mini-series "Unorthodox", delivers a powerful and nuanced performance in her role as rebellious teenager Vika in this poignant and intimate drama exploring the relationship between a mother and daughter. Asia, her 35-year-old single mother, has been raising Vika on her own since immigrating to Israel from Russia when Vika was just a small child. But for Asia, motherhood has always been an ongoing struggle rather than an obvious instinct, and her relationship with her now adolescent daughter has become strained and distant. They barely interact with one another, as Asia concentrates on her job as a nurse working long hours at the hospital, while Vika hangs out at the skate-park with her friends. Their routine is shaken when Vika's health takes a sudden turn for the worse. Coming to terms with the realities of Vika's rapidly progressing degenerative disorder will uncover the deep bonds of mutual love and trust that had remained unexpressed for so long. And as she struggles to better understand her daughter's fears, longings and emotional needs, Asia will have to finally find her voice as a mother.

Winner – Best Actress (Shira Haas), Tribeca Int'l FF 2020

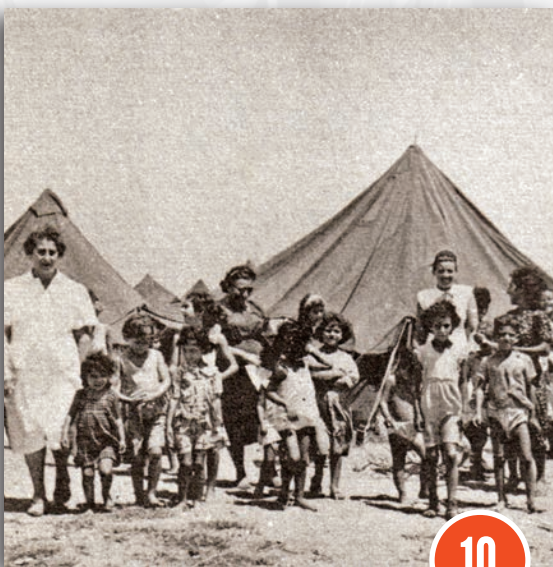
Winner – Nora Ephron Prize (Ruthy Pribar, Director), Tribeca Int'l FF 2020

Winner – Best Cinematography, Tribeca Int'l FF 2020

Nominated – 13 Israeli Academy Awards 2020 including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actress

Content Advisory: Mature themes

Saturday, November 14th starting at 7:00 PM



10

MA'ABAROT

Israel 2019
Director: Dina Zvi Riklis
Hebrew with English subtitles
84 minutes

Documentary

Known as ma'abarot, the Israeli transit camps of 1948–1952 were a temporary housing solution to accommodate the massive surge of new immigrants arriving in the young nation from different parts of the world. A controversial enterprise, the transit camps housed over 300,000 immigrants in tents and tin huts, transitioning them into becoming part of the Israeli cultural tapestry, but also contributing to the divide between Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews in Israel. This informative documentary takes a close look at life inside the camps through interviews with former residents, research, and archival footage, revealing the impact of the camps on the lives of those immigrants, and offering stark insights into the racial divides that still permeate Israeli society today.

Tuesday, November 17th starting at 7:00 PM



8

MY NAME IS SARA

USA/Poland 2019
Director: Steven Oritt
English
111 minutes

Drama

This powerful tale of courage, tenacity and survival is based on the true-life story of Sara Goralnik, a 13-year-old Polish Jewish girl whose entire family was killed by Nazis in September 1942. After a grueling escape to the Ukrainian countryside, Sara steals her Christian best friend's identity and finds refuge in a small village, where she is taken in by a farmer and his young wife. She soon discovers the dark secrets of her employers' marriage, complicating her relationship with the already deeply suspicious pair and threatening her own secret that must be protected at all costs: her true identity.

Content Advisory: Mature subject matter

Sunday, November 15th starting at 7:00 PM



11

MRS. G

Israel 2019
Director: Dalit Kimor
Hebrew, English & Hungarian with English subtitles
55 minutes

Documentary

This colorful documentary tells the story of how one woman created the world's most famous swimsuit company. Gottex, the iconic Israeli swimwear empire whose swimsuits were treasured by the likes of Princess Di, Brooke Shields and other celebrities around the world, was founded by legendary designer and larger-than-life character Lea Gottlieb. A Holocaust survivor who arrived penniless in Israel from post-WWII Hungary, Gottlieb – known as "Mrs. G" – started Gottex in her tiny Tel Aviv apartment, and through her endless creativity, unbridled passion, dominant personality and unyielding professional vision, was able to climb to the pinnacle of the glamorous international fashion world. But for those closest to her, this phenomenal success came at a high personal price. This fascinating documentary traces the life of Leah Gottlieb, her meteoric rise, and her complicated relationships with her two daughters.

Wednesday, November 18th starting at 7:00 PM



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9

GOLDA

Israel/Germany 2019
Directors: Sagi Borenstein & Udi Nir
Hebrew with English subtitles
88 minutes

Documentary

Despite Golda Meir's iconic international stature and image as "queen of the Jewish people", in Israel itself, her legacy is far more complicated and is still clouded in controversy. Shortly before her passing, Golda Meir was interviewed for Israeli television. After shooting ended, the cameras kept rolling, recording an intimate talk with the first and only woman to ever rule Israel. Combining excerpts from this candid, never-before-seen off-air interview, along with testimonies of former allies and opponents alike, and rare archival footage, this acclaimed new documentary offers a fascinating and nuanced look at Golda Meir and the complexities of her dramatic premiership - five turbulent years that secured her place in history, albeit at a high personal cost.

Monday, November 16th starting at 7:00 PM



12

HERE WE ARE

Israel/Italy 2020
Director: Nir Bergman
Hebrew with English subtitles
94 minutes

Drama

Since separating from his wife, Aharon - now in his mid-fifties - has put his own life on hold and devoted himself entirely to raising his autistic son Uri. They live together in a gentle routine, far away from the real world. But Uri is now a young adult, and both the authorities and his mother believe that the time has come for him to move to a specialized home where he can start living more independently. En-route to the new institution, however, Aharon is overcome by doubt and decides to run away with his son, knowing deep inside that his son is not yet ready for this giant step. Or is it, in fact, Aharon himself who is not ready? Mixing gentle humour with quiet moments of tenderness, this beautifully rendered film from acclaimed Israeli director Nir Bergman is a bittersweet and life-affirming story about fatherly love and the difficulty of letting go.

Official Selection – Cannes Film Festival 2020

Nominated – 10 Israeli Academy Awards 2020 including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor

Content Advisory: Brief nudity

Thursday, November 19th starting at 7:00 PM

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Tickets available online at CalgaryJewishFilmFestival.com