



BETH TZEDEC
CONGREGATION

24TH
ANNUAL
CALGARY JEWISH
FILM FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 2-17, 2024

Photo By: Shax Photography



JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF CALGARY

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NOVEMBER 2-17, 2024

24TH ANNUAL
CALGARY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Welcome to the 24th 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. And we are pleased that, during these challenging times for Israel and for the Jewish people as a whole, our festival continues to be a place where we can come together and experience the sense of community that has always been such an integral part of our film festival.

We're thrilled to have renowned Israeli film director **Shemi Zarhin** here with us in-person as our special guest on Opening Night. We have screened a number of his films at our festival over the years, and we feel incredibly honored and privileged to have a filmmaker of his stature in attendance at our festival to present his newest film, the touching drama **Bliss (Hemda)**.

We're delighted to have **Calgary Jewish Federation** join us as co-sponsors of the screening of the remarkable documentary **999: The Forgotten Girls**, as part of the CJF's community-wide Kristallnacht commemoration. This event is open to the entire community, **free of charge**.

Another film that will be offering to the community **free of charge** is the very powerful documentary **We Will Dance Again**, about the tragic events that unfolded on October 7th at the Nova Music Festival in Southern Israel. We are grateful to **Calgary Jewish Federation** for co-sponsoring this exceptional film, and would also like to extend a special thank you to **Joe & Sondra Spier**, and **Ron & Barb Krell's Nitzanim Community Fund**, whose generosity has helped make this free screening possible.

Among the other highlights of our festival, this year's **Dr. Ralph Gurevitch Tikkun Olam Screening** will feature the gripping film **The Stronghold**, and this year's **Dr. Martha Cohen Memorial Screening** will feature the captivating drama **The Performance**.

We're excited to have the participation this year of **Camp BB Riback** as the sponsor of the feel-good comedy/drama **Running on Sand**. The movie will be preceded by the screening of the **2024 Camp BB Award** winning film, **When I Grow Up**.

And we're delighted to have **JAC- Jewish Adult Calgary** sponsoring the presentation of two poignant dramas **Pink Lady** and **Unspoken**.

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 documentary **Moses Ezekiel: Portrait of a Lost (Cause) Artist**, which brings to light the little-known story of this once-renowned Jewish-American artist.

As always, we would like to express our deepest thanks to all 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.

And a special thank you to the members of our dedicated Film Festival Committee who have spent months previewing films in order to bring you a diverse selection of engaging films that we hope will move and inspire you, entertain and delight you, enlighten and challenge you.

~ Harvey Cynghiser

FILM FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Harvey Cyngiser

Barb Atnikov
 Henny Bassin
 Max Blitt
 Milton Bogoch
 Renee Bogoch
 Danielle Braitman
 David Busheikin
 Debra Carnat
 Jim Cohen
 Maxine Fischbein
 Wylma Freedman
 Sarah Ginzberg
 Ralph Gurevitch
 Sheila Gurevitch
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 David Prasow
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 Lily Rosenberg
 Albert Rosengarten
 Deborah Silver
 Jun Simantov
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THANK YOU

We wish to thank all of our sponsors for their generous support of the 2024 Film Festival

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Dr. Jason & Cheryl Gurevitch and family

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Beth Tzedec Congregation

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In memory of Bronia Cyngiser z"l

VIP's

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In memory of Bronia Cyngiser z"l



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In memory of Bronia Cyngiser z"l

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Jerry Snukal
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BLISS (HEMDA)

Israel 2024
Writer & Director: Shemi Zarhin
Hebrew & Arabic with English subtitles
 125 minutes

SPECIAL GUEST:
Shemi Zarhin, Director

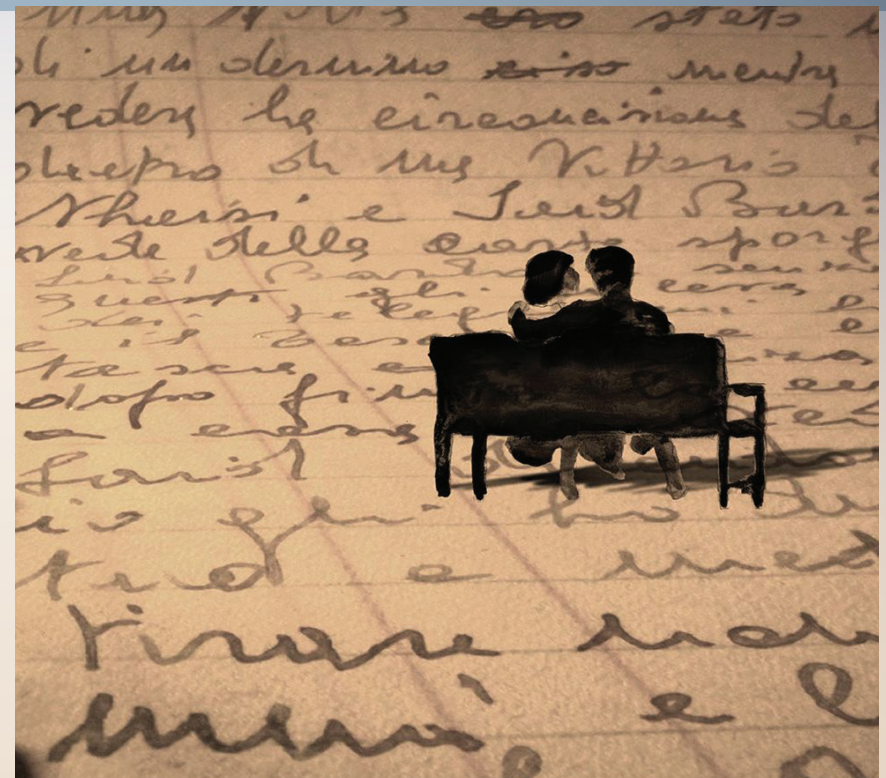


Drama

Sassi (73) and Effi (50) spend their days frantically running from job to job, struggling to pay back the enormous gambling debt left behind by Sassi's son. They somehow overcome all the daily obstacles in their lives – the grueling work schedule, their obvious age gap, and Sassi's health issues – with love and humor. But when two young men - Omri, Sassi's grandson, and David, Efi's former student - suddenly burst back into their lives, breaking their fragile and carefully crafted schedule, the limits of their love (and humor) will be tested like never before. Written and directed by Shemi Zarhin, one of the most respected and unique voices in Israeli cinema and literature for over 30 years, and featuring superb performances by two of Israel's most talented and prominent actors - Sasson Gabai and Asi Levi - *Bliss (Hemda)* is a moving, tender and insightful love story set against the diverse and delicate fabric of Israeli society.

Content Warning: mature subject matter

Saturday, November 2nd at 7:30 PM



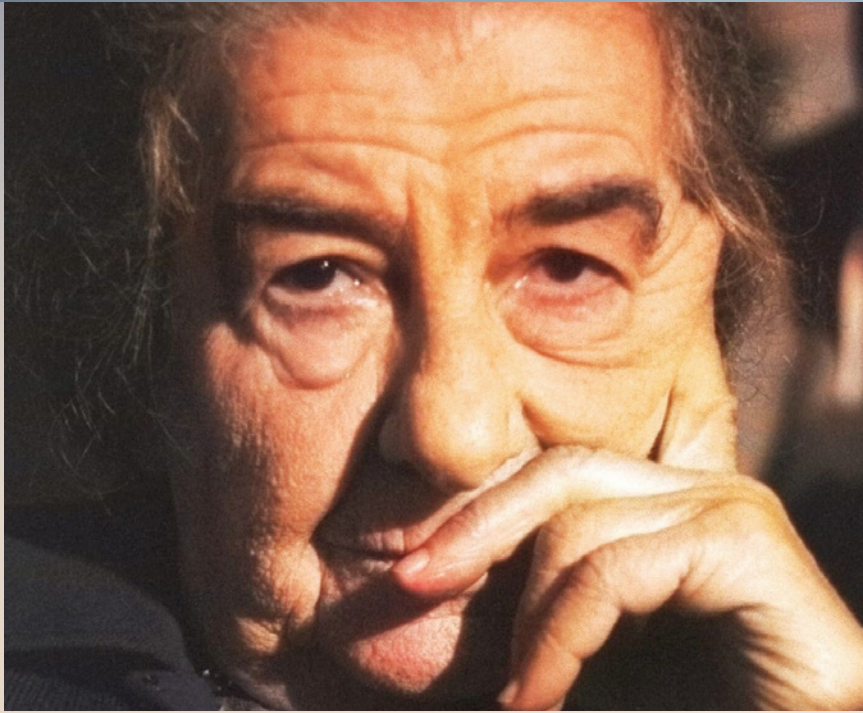
GIADO

Israel 2023
Directors: Golan Rise & Sharon Yaish
Hebrew & Italian with English subtitles
 55 minutes

Documentary

At the age of 20, Yosef Dadosh was among 3,000 Benghazi Jews sent to the Giado concentration camp in the heart of the Libyan desert during World War II. He secretly kept a diary of the ordeal, capturing the harrowing existence endured by the camp's inmates. For seven decades, the diary remained locked away, hidden even from his own children, until his passing. Now, Dadosh's granddaughter Sharon Yaish - co-director of this deeply personal documentary - shares his story. Utilizing interviews, animation, reconstructed models of the camp, and haunting excerpts from the diary, this beautifully crafted film sheds light on the experiences and plight of North African Jewry during the Holocaust - a subject that has been left under-discussed and largely treated as a historical footnote.

Sunday, November 3rd at 1:00 PM



GOLDA'S WAR DIARIES

Israel 2023

Director: Yariv Mozer

Hebrew with English subtitles

74 minutes

Documentary

In September 2023, the official protocols of Prime Minister Golda Meir's office from the time of the Yom Kippur War were made public for the first time. Released by Israel's National Archive to mark the 50th anniversary of the war, these formerly classified documents leave no room for doubt. Contrary to the prevailing perception of Golda's shortcomings during the war, these documents reveal that she, in fact, managed the war effort vigorously and assertively. Despite the war's steep cost in human life, the facts show that, far from failing, Golda's resolute wartime leadership and successful diplomacy were pivotal in securing Israel's victory and the subsequent peace accord with Egypt five years later. Through Golda's own words and the words of those who were with her, this revelatory documentary provides a unique behind-the-scenes glimpse of the real story of those fateful days, and is particularly resonant today amid Israel's current challenges.

Sunday, November 3rd at 2:20 PM



TELLING NONIE

Israel 2023

Director: Paz Schwartz

Hebrew & English with English subtitles

50 minutes

Documentary

Tormented by his role in a 1950s Gaza targeted assassination, Geizi Tsafrir, an elderly former Mossad and Shin Bet (Israeli Security Services) agent, seeks redemption. Reflecting on his time with Shin Bet and the targeted killing of an Egyptian lieutenant colonel, he decides to confront his past and sends an email to the colonel's daughter, Nonie Darwish, who now lives in Los Angeles. Once intent on avenging her father's death, she is now a prominent voice against radical Islam and a supporter of Israel. The mysterious email from Tsafrir sets Darwish on an emotional journey into her past, culminating in a meeting between the two of them. Winner of the Haifa International Film Festival's Best Israeli Documentary, the film explores intricate emotions, history's complexities, and the bumpy path toward mutual understanding and forgiveness.

Sunday, November 3rd at 4:00 PM



THE DR. MARTHA COHEN MEMORIAL SCREENING

THE PERFORMANCE

USA/Slovakia 2024

Director: Shira Piven

English and German, Yiddish & Hungarian with English subtitles

112 minutes

Drama

Based on a short story by Arthur Miller, this powerful and tension-filled pre-war drama is set in 1937 as the fascist atmosphere in Germany is nearing its brutal pinnacle. Harold May (Jeremy Piven) is an American Jew and gifted tap dancer. Though nearly past his prime, he still longs for the success and status that have eluded him. While on tour in Europe, Harold, his old flame Carol, and the rest of his troupe are scouted by Damian Fugler, a German attaché. Not knowing the blond-haired May is a Jew, Fugler offers them a huge sum to perform one show in Berlin. Once in Germany, the troupe discovers that the show is an exclusive performance for Hitler himself. As Fugler, Harold, and the troupe's lives become intertwined, Harold is faced with a choice: either keep his Jewishness a secret for the sake of his dreams or, ironically, own up to who he really is in order to escape.

Content Warning: some scenes of violence

Sunday, November 3rd at 7:00 PM

Proudly sponsored by
DR. MARTHA COHEN BEQUEST
Beth Tzedec Congregation



999: THE FORGOTTEN GIRLS

USA 2024

Director: Heather Dune Macadam

English, Slovak, German & Hebrew with English subtitles

86 minutes

Documentary

In March 1942, 999 young Slovak Jewish women, mostly teenagers, told by their government that they were embarking on a volunteer work assignment, were instead illegally deported to Auschwitz on what was the first Jewish transport to the Nazi death camp. Who were these young women? Why were they chosen? How did a tiny handful survive over three grueling years in the death camps, against all odds? Best-selling author and historian Heather Dune Macadam has adapted her acclaimed book *999: The Extraordinary Young Women of the First Official Jewish Transport* into a powerful new documentary that sheds light on this little-known story, ensuring that these women will no longer be a historical footnote.

Winner: Human Rights Award, Hamptons Doc Fest 2023

Winner: Social Impact Award, Greenwich Int'l FF 2024

Thursday, November 7th at 7:00 PM

Screening of 999: The Forgotten Girls is open to the entire community at NO CHARGE as part of our community-wide Kristallnacht Commemoration.



Proudly co-sponsored by
CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION



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

THE STRONGHOLD

Israel 2023
Director: Lior Chefetz
Hebrew with English subtitles
110 minutes

Action Drama

This gripping wartime drama is based on true events that took place during the 1973 Yom Kippur war, one of Israel's most traumatic battles. When a desolate Israeli outpost in the Sinai desert comes under siege after a surprise Egyptian attack, the unit tries desperately to defend their position with the scant resources they have at hand. But outmanned and outgunned, and pummeled by ceaseless assaults, they face imminent doom. With lives hanging by a thread, the unit's young and idealistic commander, and the army doctor who is stationed with the unit confront a soul-shattering choice: a desperate, and likely hopeless last stand, or a perilous gamble that could betray everything they stand for.

Content Warning: some graphic wartime images

Saturday, November 9th at 7:00 PM

Proudly sponsored by
THE GUREVITCH FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

Sheila Gurevitch
Illana & Henry Morton and family
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Dr. Jason & Cheryl Gurevitch and family



ALL ABOUT THE LEVKOVICHES

Hungary 2024
Director: Adam Breier
Hungarian & Hebrew with English subtitles
85 minutes

Comedy/Drama

Set in contemporary Budapest, this touching and often humorous bittersweet dramedy follows 70-year-old Tamás, a generous but stubborn boxing coach, who gets along well with everyone but his own son Iván. The two haven't spoken ever since Iván moved to Israel, became religious, and joined an Orthodox community. In fact, Tamás has never even met his own grandson, 6-year-old Ariel. When Tamás's beloved wife dies unexpectedly, he agrees to permit his son to come and sit the week-long shiva mourning period in his house, as long as he brings Ariel along with him. As tensions between the two of them rise and past conflicts resurface, they embark on an unexpected journey of self-reflection and reconciliation.

Saturday, November 9th at 9:20 PM



HERE LIVED

USA 2023
Director: Jane Wells
English
79 minutes

Documentary

Stone by stone: *HERE LIVED* is the story of hidden children, lost lives, generational trauma, and one artist's singular vision for healing. When conceptual artist Gunter Demnig first conceived of laying Stolpersteine (literal translation: stumbling stones) for the victims of the Nazi reign of terror in his native Germany, he never imagined his project would grow to become the world's largest decentralized memorial. Today, Stolpersteine have been placed in 30 countries across Europe, and on May 23, 2023, Demnig laid the 100,000th stone, each one honoring the location and story of an individual victim. *HERE LIVED* charts the conceptualization, development, and lasting emotional significance of the Stolpersteine project, while delving into the relatively little-known history of the hidden Jewish children in the Netherlands – a country that, apart from Poland, suffered the highest relative number of Jewish lives lost during the Holocaust.

Sunday, November 10th at 1:00 PM



HOME

Israel 2023
Director: Benny Fredman
Hebrew with English subtitles
111 minutes

Drama

A young and recently married Orthodox man's dream of opening a computer store in an ultra-Orthodox neighborhood in Jerusalem precipitates an explosive clash of tradition versus modernity. Despite his efforts to adhere to strict Haredi rules, Yair, a devout Yeshiva student, faces vehement opposition from the local community, who oppose the introduction of outside technology into their cloistered world and view him as an existential threat. The rising tensions and threats of violence will test both his marriage, and his own personal autonomy and free will. Based on the true story of the filmmaker's own personal experiences, this intense drama was nominated for 9 Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Film.

Content Warning: some scenes of violence

Winner: Best Actor, Israeli Academy Awards 2023
Winner: Best Supporting Actor, Israeli Academy Awards 2023

Sunday, November 10th at 2:45 PM



Photo By: Shax Photography

WE WILL DANCE AGAIN

Israel/USA 2024

Director: Yariv Mozer

Hebrew, English with English subtitles

89 minutes

Documentary

For the thousands of young free spirits who were drawn to the Nova music festival in the south of Israel, it was supposed to be a celebration of life, love, freedom and music. But as the sun rose on October 7th, the fantasy shattered. Rockets sliced through the sky, and the dancing stopped. Confusion morphed into fear as gunfire erupted amidst the chaos. Terror breached the border fence and unleashed violence on the unsuspecting people in its rawest form. Directed by acclaimed Israeli filmmaker Yariv Mozer, and told through the eyes of more than a dozen individuals who endured the brutal October 7th onslaught, this powerful documentary meticulously reconstructs the events of that day, providing us with a stark portrayal of the harrowing experiences of those who survived and those who did not. Embodying the lost innocence and beauty of youth suddenly cut short and forever scarred by the tragic events that unfolded, their stories capture not only the raw emotions and trauma that they endured, but also the heroism that emerged.

Content Warning: disturbing subject matter, graphic images

Sunday, November 10th at 7:00 PM

Screening of WE WILL DANCE AGAIN is open to the entire community at NO CHARGE.

Proudly co-sponsored by
CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION



With special thanks to



and
Joe & Sondra Spier

We Will Dance Again is a co-production of Susan Zirinsky's See It Now Studios with SIPUR and factual producer Bitachon 365, in collaboration with MGM Television, a division of Amazon MGM Studios, BBC Storyville, and HSCC. Broadcasters include BBC Storyville, Paramount+, CBS, and Hot Channel 8. Event booking contact: Go2Films.



PINK LADY

Israel/Italy 2024

Director: Nir Bergman

Hebrew with English subtitles

106 minutes

Drama

In an ultra-Orthodox Jewish community in Jerusalem, Bati has a seemingly perfect life. She is happily married to Lazer and the young couple have three children. But their world starts to crumble when Lazer is blackmailed, and Bati discovers his secret affair with his male study partner. Desperate to protect her family and keep the man she loves, she supports Lazer as he attempts to "cure" his homosexuality, whilst uncovering her true desires. Directed by award-winning Israeli filmmaker Nir Bergman (*Intimate Grammar, Here We Are*), this beautifully acted, touching and uplifting drama portrays, with great sensitivity, a young woman's journey to self-discovery and liberation.

Content Warning: mature subject matter

~~Saturday, November 16th at 7:00 PM~~

NEW DATE

Sunday, November 17th at 7:00 PM



Proudly co-sponsored by
JAC – Jewish Adult Calgary



UNSPOKEN

USA 2024

Director: Jeremy Borison

English

91 minutes

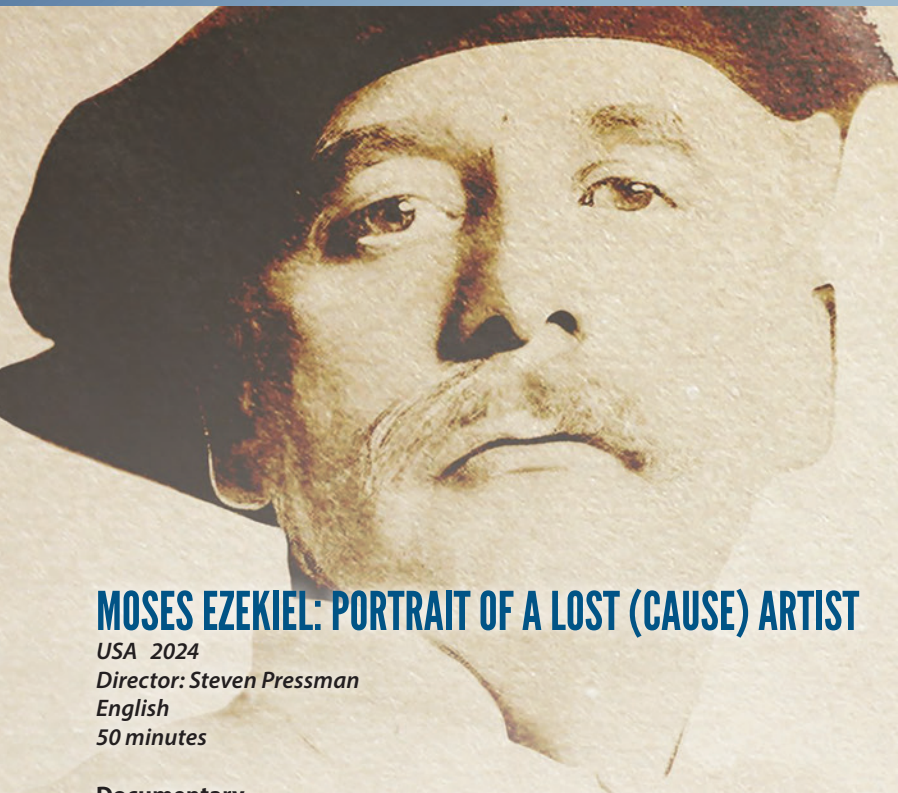
Drama

This tender coming-of-age drama follows Noam, a closeted gay Modern Orthodox Jewish teenager who discovers that he might not be alone. Among his recently deceased grandfather's belongings, Noam finds an old love letter that appears to have been written to his grandfather by another man before the Holocaust. Struggling with his own identity and place in the world, Noam sets out to find this mysterious person and uncover the truth about his grandfather, hoping to find a sort of validation in his grandfather's hidden history. Noam's quest becomes a heartfelt journey toward self-acceptance.

Saturday, November 16th at 9:20 PM



Proudly co-sponsored by
JAC – Jewish Adult Calgary



MOSES EZEKIEL: PORTRAIT OF A LOST (CAUSE) ARTIST

USA 2024

Director: Steven Pressman

English

50 minutes

Documentary

In recent years, hundreds of Confederate monuments and memorials have been taken down throughout the United States, largely in response to the Black Lives Matter movement and related protests against the Civil War's bitter legacy of slavery and racism. But who knew that one of the nation's most prominent Confederate monuments was created by a once renowned and internationally famous Jewish-American sculptor who had fought for the Confederacy as a young soldier? As a loyal son of the Confederacy, Moses Ezekiel became known for creating monumental works of art celebrating the "Lost Cause" myth of the Confederacy. While bringing to light the intriguing and little-known story of Jewish artist Moses Ezekiel, who faded into obscurity after his death more than 100 years ago, this timely and provocative documentary also focuses on the current ongoing national debate in the US over the fate of the controversial Civil War monuments.

Sunday, November 17th at 1:00 PM



JEWISH
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JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA
Jay Joffe Memorial Program



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

The Jay Joffe Memorial Program was launched by 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 promoting and featuring Jewish culture and history through activities such as lectures, exhibits, films or performances.

This year, the directors of JHSSA are pleased to again be part of the Beth Tzedec Calgary Jewish Film Festival through the sponsorship of *Moses Ezekiel: Portrait of a Lost (Cause) Artist*, which tells the story of this once renowned and internationally famous Jewish-American sculptor.

This "timely and provocative documentary" brings his story out of obscurity, while also considering the ongoing and larger issue of how societies deal with monuments that reflect sometimes difficult and divisive history – reflecting Jay Joffe's passions both for bringing the love of Jewish history to the widest possible audience, and for underlining the importance of history and its preservation.





RUNNING ON SAND

Israel 2023

Director: Adar Shafran

Hebrew with English subtitles

104 minutes

Comedy/Drama

Omari, a young Eritrean refugee living in Israel is about to be deported. Managing to dodge the immigration authorities at the airport at the last moment, he runs straight into the hands of fans of the “Maccabi Netanya” soccer team, who mistakenly assume that he is the eagerly awaited Nigerian professional soccer star who was supposed to arrive at the same time. As the new key acquisition for the struggling soccer team, he is hailed as a hero. Now, Omari must conceal his true identity and, despite not having any soccer talent, try to meet the hopes and expectations of the team owner, the fans, and the team owner’s daughter. This feel-good dramedy mixes humor and heart as it sheds light on the unseen and unheard in Israeli society, and the plight of migrants and refugees.

Winner: Best Debut Film and Best Screenplay, Haifa Int’l FF 2023

Winner: Best of Fest Audience Award, Palm Springs Int’l FF 2024

Nominated: 4 Israeli Academy Awards including Best Film

Movie will be preceded by a screening of the 2024 Camp BB Award winning film:

WHEN I GROW UP

Directed by Jack Walker, Mads Fox, and Sarah Giuffride (English, 6 minutes)

Sunday, November 17th at 2:30 PM



Proudly co-sponsored by
Camp BB Riback



SEVEN BLESSINGS

Israel 2023

Director: Ayelet Menahemi

Hebrew, French & Moroccan with English subtitles

111 minutes

NEW DATE

Saturday, November 16th at 7:00 PM

Comedy/Drama

Winner of 10 Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Screenplay, and Best Actress, this bittersweet dramedy was Israel’s submission to the 2024 Oscars for Best International Film. In early 1990’s Jerusalem, a large, boisterous Moroccan-Jewish-Israeli family reunites for a cross-cultural wedding, celebrating the Moroccan-Jewish bride and French-Ashkenazi groom with the traditional week-long ritual of Sheva Brachot (Seven Blessings) – seven nights of festive meals honoring the newlyweds. But as the week unfolds, the facade of joie de vivre and togetherness begins to crack. Family secrets, lies, long-held resentments and painful old wounds stemming from an old Moroccan-Jewish custom soon rise to the surface, forcing them to confront the past. No one can walk away unscathed, but is it possible to find the love and strength required to forgive?

Winner: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress and 6 other awards, Israeli Academy Awards 2023

—Sunday, November 17th at 7:00 PM—

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

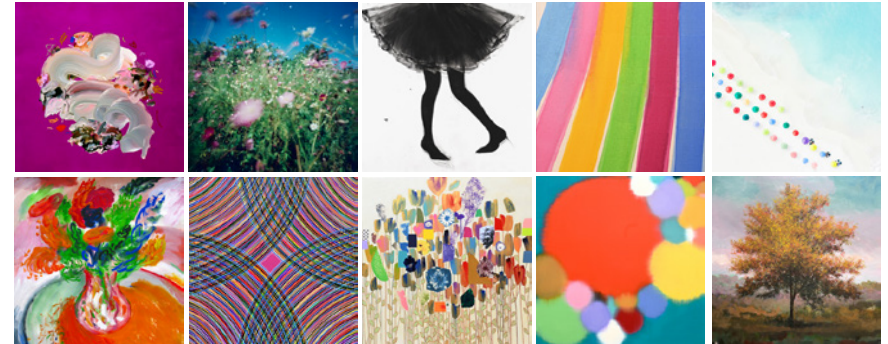
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NOVEMBER 2-17, 2024

24TH ANNUAL CALGARY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

ADMISSION TO THE FESTIVAL

A PASS FOR THE ENTIRE FESTIVAL

Includes all films, guest speakers and receptions

\$80 per person prior to November 2nd
(\$90 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 On-Line at:
WWW.CALGARYJEWISHFILMFESTIVAL.COM

or at the synagogue office by calling
403-255-8688

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

7:30 pm Bliss (Hemda)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

1:00 pm Giado
2:20 pm Golda's War Diaries
4:00 pm Telling Nonie
7:00 pm The Performance

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

7:00 pm 999: The Forgotten Girls

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

7:00 pm The Stonghold
9:20 pm All About The Levkovitches

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

1:00 pm Here Lived
2:45 pm Home
7:00 pm We Will Dance Again

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

7:00 pm Pink Lady
9:20 pm Unspoken

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

1:00 pm Moses Ezekiel
2:30 pm Running On Sand
7:00 pm Seven Blessings



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