

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

25



C A L G A R Y

JEWISH  
FILM  
FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 1-16, 2025



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## CALGARY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 1-16, 2025

# 25

Welcome to the 25th Annual Beth Tzedec Calgary Jewish Film Festival – our milestone 25th year of bringing our community together to explore the richness and diversity of our Jewish world through the magical lens of cinema! We're proud, once again, to bring you an exciting line-up of outstanding films and special guests, and 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 excited to be able to bring you the much-talked-about film *The Road Between Us*, the award-winning documentary that became the subject of great controversy when it was originally pulled from this year's TIFF line-up, only to be ultimately reinstated. And we're delighted to have JAC- Jewish Adult Calgary as co-sponsors of this gripping film, as well as the powerful drama *Dead Language*.

We're happy to have Calgary Jewish Federation join us as co-sponsors of the screening of the moving documentary *The Last Twins*, as part of the CJF's community-wide Kristallnacht commemoration. This event is open to the entire community, free of charge.

Another film that we're offering to the community free of charge is the touching documentary *Always Together*, which follows a group of Israeli twelfth-graders from the Gaza border area as they navigate their final year towards graduation - together – in the shadow of October 7th. We're thrilled to have the film's director, Paz Schwartz, and one of the students featured in the film, Shahar Reuven, joining us in-person at the screening. We are grateful to Calgary Jewish Federation for co-sponsoring this heartfelt film and would also like to extend a special thank you to Joe & Sondra Spier, Ron & Barb Krell, and the Cynghiser Family, whose generosity has helped make this free screening possible.

Another special guest that you won't want to miss is filmmaker Abby Ginzberg, whose outstanding documentary *Labors of Love* explores the life and legacy of Henrietta Szold, the visionary founder of Hadassah-WIZO. We're delighted to have CHW (Canadian Hadassah-WIZO) join us in co-sponsoring this inspiring film.

Among the other highlights of our festival, this year's "Dr. Ralph Gurevitch Tikkun Olam Screening" will feature the entertaining and inspiring film *Charles Grodin: Rebel with a Cause*, and this year's "Dr. Martha Cohen Memorial Screening" will feature the captivating drama *Midas Man*.

We're honored, once again this year, to play a part in the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta's annual Jay Joffe Memorial Program. JHSSA will be co-sponsoring the screening of the documentary *Swedishkayt: YidLife Crisis in Stockholm*, as well as the locally made short film *Bazaar!....The Story That Needs To Be Told*.

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

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Anonymous







## THE BLOND BOY FROM THE CASBAH

France 2024

Director: Alexandre Arcady  
French & Arabic with English subtitles

126 minutes

### Drama

Antoine, a celebrated filmmaker, travels back to his birthplace, Algiers, with his young son to present his latest film: an account of his childhood in mid-20th century Algeria during the country's civil war. As he wanders through the city, the filmmaker immerses us in the moments of happiness, laughter, and tears of his childhood – spent between school, friends, and his Jewish family. Growing up during the final moments of Algeria's pre-independence period, the young Antoine discovers his profound fascination with cinema and starts to understand who he truly is. Based on French Jewish director Alexandre Arcady's childhood years in Algeria, this bittersweet semi-autobiographical dramedy presents an enchanting and nostalgic look at the vivid tapestry of life in the Casbah - a poor, multicultural section of the city where Jews, Muslims and Christians had once lived together in peaceful co-existence for generations.

Saturday, November 1st at 7:30 PM



## AMONG NEIGHBORS

USA/Poland 2025

Director: Yoav Potash  
English & Polish with English subtitles  
100 minutes

### Documentary – USA

Today, in an era where difficult truths about the past are being silenced by a right-wing Polish government that seeks to deny any Polish complicity in the Holocaust, *Among Neighbors* investigates the story of a small, rural town where the longstanding peaceful co-existence between Jews and Polish-Catholic neighbors was shattered by World War II. Combining magical realism and evocative hand-drawn animation with revelatory interviews and verité footage, the film focuses on the only living Holocaust survivor from the town, and an aging eyewitness who, six months after the war had ended, saw Jews murdered there - not by Nazis, but by her own Polish neighbors. Produced and directed by award-winning filmmaker Yoav Potash, this powerful documentary uncovers accounts of love, betrayal, and a silenced and disturbing history.

Sunday, November 2nd at 1:00 PM





## LABORS OF LOVE: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HENRIETTA SZOLD

USA 2025

Director: Abby Ginzberg

English & Hebrew with English subtitles

79 minutes

SPECIAL GUEST:

Abby Ginsberg, Director



### Documentary

A visionary leader, humanitarian, and one of history's most influential, yet under-recognized, American Jewish women, Henrietta Szold left an enduring legacy that continues to reverberate to this day. After visiting Palestine in 1909, she founded Hadassah, a Jewish women's service organization that would create a vital link between American Jewish women and communities in Palestine, empowering and inspiring hundreds of thousands of Jewish women to invest their energies in a cause that transcended their own personal lives. Through this organization, she established the region's modern healthcare system, built on a mandate to treat Arabs and Jews equally. Later, she spearheaded Youth Aliyah, an operation that rescued 11,000 Jewish children from Nazi Europe in the 1930's and transported them to safety in Palestine. Combining archival material, interviews and dramatic re-enactments, Peabody award-winning director Abby Ginzberg gives long-overdue recognition to Szold's legacy and brings her inspiring story to life.

Sunday, November 2nd at 3:00 PM



Proudly co-sponsored by  
CHW (CANADIAN HADASSAH-WIZO)



## THE RING

Israel 2024

Directors: Adir Miller, Doror Paz & Yoav Paz

Hebrew, English & Hungarian with English subtitles

122 minutes

### Dramedy

Annon Noble is a religious man with a strong bond to his mother, a Holocaust survivor. He usually drives her to school lectures where she tells the students how she saved the lives of her baby boy and herself with the help of a thin gold ring. When his mother's health deteriorates, Annon travels to her old hometown, Budapest, to search for the mythological ring that saved her life in the past. He turns for help to his estranged daughter, who is a TV researcher, and offers her to go on this journey together. Balancing humor and heartfelt drama, *The Ring* is a heartwarming story about three generations and the family history that reconnects them. The film was inspired by the true Holocaust survival story of director/actor Adir Miller's own family.

Sunday, November 2nd at 7:00 PM



**ALWAYS TOGETHER***Israel 2025**Director: Paz Schwartz**Hebrew with English subtitles**72 minutes***Documentary**

Displaced from their homes in the kibbutzim and villages along Israel's southern border with Gaza following the October 7th massacre, the twelfth graders of Nofei HaBsr, the regional high school, face an uncertain future. Scattered across the country and longing to be with each other, the students unite and appeal to the Ministry of Education. Their plea results in the establishment of a unique boarding school in Ein Gedi by the Dead Sea. In this moving and inspiring film, director Paz Schwartz intimately follows their year of living and studying together in this temporary sanctuary, grappling with the loss of family members and friends, and forging unexpected bonds as they navigate their final year towards graduation. Amidst all the trauma and loss that they have experienced, they have each other... for support, for healing and for hope.

**Thursday, November 6th at 7:00 PM***Screening of ALWAYS TOGETHER is open to the entire community, at NO CHARGE.*

Proudly co-sponsored by  
**CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION**

With special thanks to  
 **Krell Nitzanim Fund**  
**Joe & Sondra Spier**  
**The Cyngiser Family**

**SPECIAL GUEST:**  
**Paz Schwartz, Director**



**SPECIAL GUEST:**  
**Shahar Reuven, Film Subject**







## THE SEA

*Israel 2025*

*Director: Shai Carmeli-Pollak*

*Arabic & Hebrew with English subtitles*

*93 minutes*

### Drama

Khaled, a 12-year-old boy from a Palestinian village, gets the chance to fulfill a dream and see the sea for the first time in his life on a school trip. But when they reach a military checkpoint, the soldiers claim that his entry permit into Israel is invalid and send him back home, while his classmates continue their trip. Deeply disappointed, Khaled sets out to reach the sea on his own - even though he doesn't know the way and doesn't speak any Hebrew. When his father, Ribhi, an undocumented laborer working in Israel, learns that his son is missing, he leaves his job in search of him—risking arrest and the loss of his livelihood. A tender and poignant drama filled with human empathy, this beautifully made film follows young Khaled on his innocent and heartfelt quest to fulfill his dream. Winner of 5 Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Film, Best Screenplay and Best Actor, *The Sea* will be the official Israeli submission to the 2026 Oscars for Best International Feature Film.

*Winner: Best Film, Best Screenplay, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Original Music, Israeli Academy Awards 2025*

*Winner: Honorable Mention in Best Film category, Jerusalem IFF 2025*

*Nominated: 13 Israeli Academy Awards 2025*

**Saturday, November 8th at 7:00 PM**



## SODA

*Israel 2025*

*Director: Erez Tadmor*

*Hebrew with English subtitles*

*96 minutes*

### Drama

This powerful drama is set in early-1950's Israel, where Eva, a beautiful seamstress, arrives with her daughter in a working-class neighborhood largely made up of former partisan fighters and young Holocaust survivors. Shalom Gottlieb, a former partisan leader and current factory foreman at the local soda bottling plant, falls for Eva, who offers him a chance at happiness and a life filled with beauty and laughter. But rumors of Eva's past as a Kapo (Nazi collaborator) during the Holocaust set off a storm of emotions and questions among the close-knit community, and Shalom finds himself at the centre of a moral conflict. His choice to be with Eva now means not only betraying his family, but also his fellow partisans and his duty to uncover her secret. Starring Lior Raz (*Fauda*) as Shalom, the film was inspired by the life of director Erez Tadmor's grandfather.

**Saturday, November 8th at 9:00 PM**





## ADA: MY MOTHER THE ARCHITECT

Israel/USA 2024

Director: Yael Melamede

English & Hebrew with English subtitles

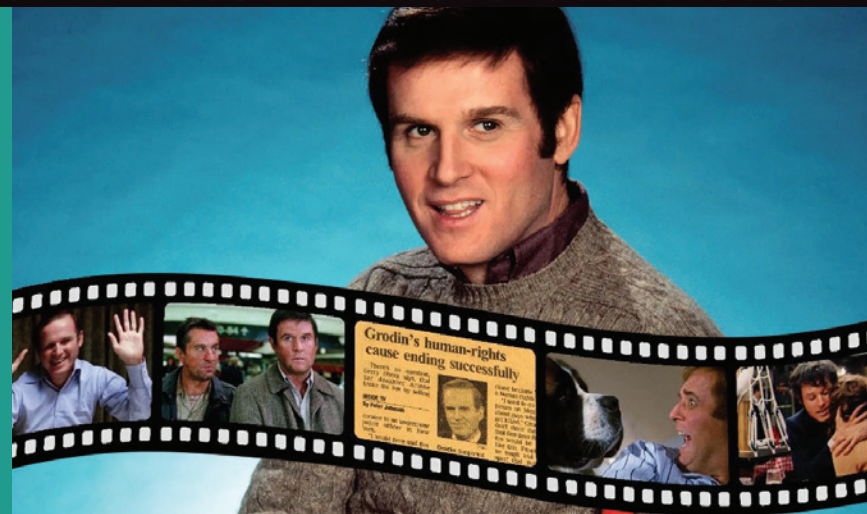
81 minutes

### Documentary

Ada Karmi Melamede is one of the most accomplished architects of her generation in her native Israel and abroad. A true pioneer who, like many successful working mothers of her time, was forced to make impossible choices, Ada designed some of the nation's most iconic public buildings and is a recipient of the prestigious Israel Prize. Her work gave physical form to some of Israel's highest democratic ideals, most notably in the acclaimed Supreme Court building in Jerusalem, the Open University, Ben Gurion Airport, and numerous civic institutions around the country. In this heartfelt and elegantly made documentary, her daughter Yael Melamede, a filmmaker and former architect herself, movingly profiles a woman and artist deeply tested by the realities of career and motherhood, a unique mother-daughter bond, and a fragile nation grappling with unrealized dreams.

Winner: Best Cinematography, Jerusalem IFF 2024

Sunday, November 9th at 1:00 PM



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

## CHARLES GRODIN: REBEL WITH A CAUSE

USA 2025

Director: James L. Freedman

English

93 minutes

### Documentary

This entertaining and touching documentary pays tribute to the extraordinary life and career of a man who was not only a talented actor-comedian and broadcast personality, but also a tireless social activist. A master of dry wit and deadpan delivery, Charles Grodin captivated audiences with beloved performances in *The Heartbreak Kid*, *Midnight Run*, *Catch 22*, *Beethoven*, and countless sharp-witted late-night TV appearances. Raised in a Jewish household in Pittsburgh, his life embodied the concept of "Tikkun Olam". The film highlights his focus in later life on championing meaningful causes, using his platform as CNBC talk show host to advocate for justice and pressing social issues – in particular, his remarkable, decades-long fight to get wrongfully convicted people – most of whom were mothers of color with young children – out of prison. Through a treasure trove of film and TV clips, insightful interviews, and heartfelt reflections, this enlightening film celebrates a singular talent who left an indelible mark on both entertainment and humanity.

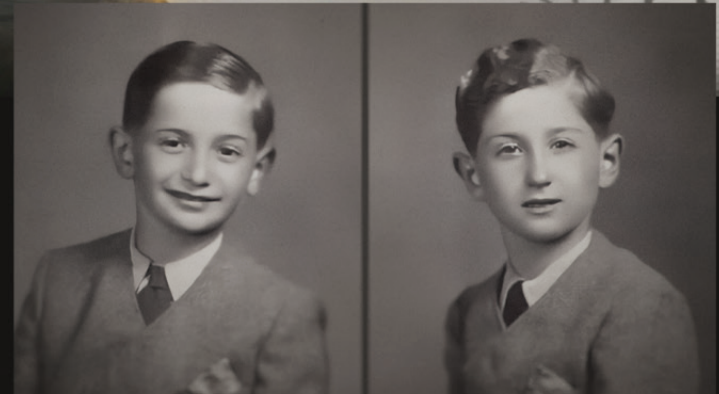
Sunday, November 9th at 2:45 PM

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**THE GUREVITCH FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND**

Sheila Gurevitch, Illana & Henry Morton and family,

Dr. Darryl & Allison Gurevitch and family, Dr. Jason & Cheryl Gurevitch and family

**THE LAST TWINS**

USA 2025

Directors: Perri Peltz &amp; Matthew O'Neill

English

80 minutes

**Documentary**

*The Last Twins* is the never-before-told story of an unsung hero of the Holocaust, Erno "Zvi" Spiegel, who risked everything to save dozens of young twins from almost certain death at Auschwitz. Under the shadow of Dr. Josef Mengele's horrific experiments, Spiegel used his courage, compassion, and ingenuity to shield the most vulnerable—the sets of twins targeted for brutal medical experimentation. Mengele put Spiegel in charge of the young boys, but Spiegel used his position to protect and comfort the children, all of whom had been torn from their families and subjected to inhumane tests under the constant threat of extermination. Through first-hand testimony and exclusive archival material, this poignant documentary brings to life the voices of those who survived because of Spiegel's defiance - a testament to resilience, sacrifice, and the power of one person to make a difference, even in humanity's darkest hour.

**Sunday, November 9th at 7:00 PM**

Screening of **THE LAST TWINS** is open to the entire community at **NO CHARGE**, as part of our community-wide **KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION**.



Calgary  
Jewish Federation  
The strength of a people.  
The power of a community.

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**CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION**







## THE ROAD BETWEEN US: THE ULTIMATE RESCUE

Canada 2025

Director: Barry Avrich

English

95 minutes

### Documentary

Perhaps the most talked about film of this year's Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), *The Road Between Us* was originally pulled from the TIFF lineup to great controversy, only to be ultimately reinstated, and going on to win the festival's People's Choice Award for Best Documentary. The film follows retired Israeli general Noam Tibon, who on October 7, 2023, received a desperate text from his son Amir: Hamas terrorists had stormed Amir's home on a kibbutz near the Gaza border, and he, his wife, and their two young daughters feared for their lives. With no time to spare and relying only on his instincts and military training, Noam sets out from Tel Aviv – 85 kilometres away – together with his wife Gali – navigating ambushes, roadblocks, and a collapsing security system – in a relentless race against time to reach and save their family. Set against the backdrop of one of Israel's darkest days, and blending intimate firsthand testimony with the raw urgency of a survival thriller, this film is both a gripping cinematic retelling of an extraordinary rescue, and a profoundly human story about courage, family, resilience, and the human capacity for bravery and love in the darkest of moments.

**Content Advisory:** *disturbing content, graphic images*

Saturday, November 15th at 7:00 PM



Proudly co-sponsored by  
JAC – JEWISH ADULT CALGARY



## DEAD LANGUAGE

Israel/Czech Republic/Poland 2025

Directors: Mihal Brezis & Oded Binnun

English & Hebrew with English subtitles

110 minutes

### Drama/Romance

While waiting at the airport for her husband, Aya is mistaken for someone else. Intrigued, she decides, on a whim, to pick up a total stranger instead. Their encounter sparks an unexpected intimacy that unsettles Aya's sense of certainty and awakens within her a yearning she neither fully understands nor knows how to fulfill. When the man abruptly disappears, Aya is left with a key to his hotel room and a yearning that perhaps only a complete stranger can fulfill. Featuring a superb performance by Sarah Adler as Aya, and nominated for 12 Israeli Academy Awards, *Dead Language* is a tender, quietly powerful drama about relationships and about longing — longing for connection, for meaning, for something beyond the confines of everyday life.

**Winner:** *Best Script, Jerusalem IFF 2025*

**Nominated:** *12 Israeli Academy Awards 2025 including Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Actress*

**Content Advisory:** *mature subject matter*

Saturday, November 15th at 9:00 PM



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## SWEDISHKAYT: YIDLIFE CRISIS IN STOCKHOLM

Canada/Sweden 2025

*Directors: Eli Batalion & Jamie Elman*

*English & Yiddish with English subtitles*

*77 minutes*

### Documentary

In their entertaining and insightful new film *SWEDISHKAYT*, self-proclaimed "international Yiddish-ish icons" YidLife Crisis - comedy duo Eli Batalion and Jamie Elman – embark on a whirlwind trip to Stockholm where they unearth a hidden treasure trove of Jewish culture. With their unique blend of humor and heart, Eli & Jamie explore the little-known history of Sweden's Jewish community – with tales spanning 250 years, from the earliest Jewish immigrants to discovering how Yiddish, an almost forgotten language, became a protected government-recognized language in Sweden. Along the way, they dive into a Yiddish cultural revival that's as unexpected as it is joyous. The result is a feel-good portrait of a small but robust community that, against the odds, is thriving - a universal story about diaspora, language, community, and resilience.

**Sunday, November 16th at 1:00 PM**



Proudly co-sponsored by the  
**JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA**  
Jay Joffe Memorial Program

Movie will be preceded by the screening of the short film:  
**BAZAAR! .... THE STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD**



## BAZAAR!.... THE STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD

Canada 2025

*Directors: Jennifer Eisenberg & Sheryl Livergant*

*Executive Producer: Jonathan Joffe*

*English*

*18 minutes*

### Short Documentary

Blintzes, shmattas and bargains – oh my! *Bazaar!* is the inspirational story of the remarkable women who volunteered for the Calgary Hadassah Bazaar, and the impact that their involvement had on both their lives and the community. Volunteering together for a common purpose, they helped cultivate a strong and cohesive Jewish community, fostering lifelong friendships and personal fulfilment – all while showcasing Calgary's small but vibrant Jewish community to the city at large. This locally made film features engaging stories told straight from the heart by several of these women, interwoven with rich archival photographs. *Bazaar!* transports viewers to a bygone era, inspiring a renewed appreciation for personal connection, volunteerism and the value of community.

**Sunday, November 16th at 1:00 PM, preceding the film "SWEDISHKAYT"**

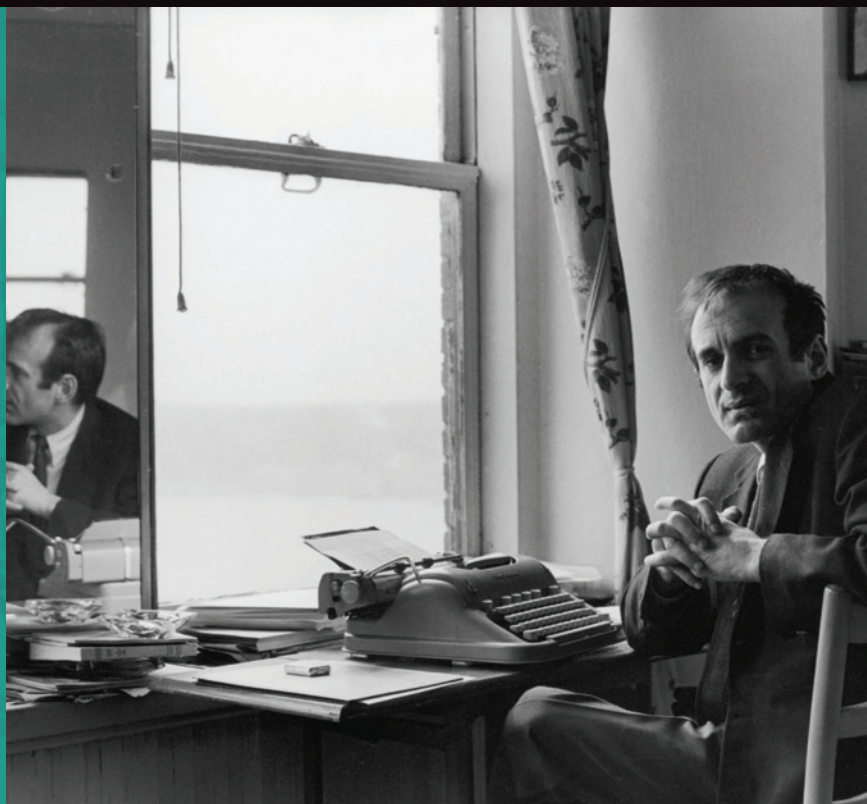


### THE JAY JOFFE MEMORIAL PROGRAM OF THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

*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 the film Swedishkayt and the short film Bazaar!, both of which reflect Jay Joffe's passions for bringing the love of Jewish history and its preservation to the widest possible audience.*





## ELIE WIESEL: SOUL ON FIRE

USA 2024

Director: Oren Rudavsky

English & French with English subtitles

87 minutes

### Documentary

Eighty years after his liberation from Buchenwald, this captivating documentary offers an intimate and unprecedented look into the life and legacy of Elie Wiesel, one of the most profound voices of our time. Told largely through his own words and eloquent voice, *Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire* seeks to penetrate to the heart of the known and unknown Elie Wiesel (1928-2016) - his passions, his conflicts and the enduring impact and relevance of his legacy as one of the most public survivors of the trauma of the Holocaust. With unique access to personal archives, original interviews and employing hand painted animation, the film illuminates Wiesel's biography as a survivor, writer, teacher and public figure.

Sunday, November 16th at 3:15 PM



## THE DR. MARTHA COHEN MEMORIAL SCREENING

### MIDAS MAN

United Kingdom

Director: Joe Stephenson

English

112 minutes

### Biopic

*Midas Man* brings to life the story of Brian Epstein, the visionary whose unyielding belief in the Beatles' potential catapulted them from a scrappy Liverpool band into the biggest rock phenomenon of all time – and transformed music history forever. From running a Liverpool record store to shaping the sound of a generation, Epstein's journey is a rollercoaster of ambition, passion, self-sacrifice, and relentless pursuit of greatness. Jacob Fortune-Lloyd stars as the mastermind behind The Beatles' meteoric rise, navigating a whirlwind of unprecedented fame, cultural revolution, and personal demons. But behind the glitz and glamour lies a man seeking acceptance and love in a world not ready. This captivating film pulls back the curtain on the swinging '60s, revealing the triumphs, heartbreaks, and secrets of the man who risked it all to change the face of music forever. His every touch turned dreams into gold, yet he couldn't escape his own struggles.

Sunday, November 16th at 7:00 PM

Proudly sponsored by

DR. MARTHA COHEN BEQUEST

Beth Tzedec Congregation

## SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Katie Baker, JHSSA  
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Maya Zaltsman, Jerusalem

## BETH TZEDEC STAFF

Jennifer Girvitz, Executive Director  
Jennifer Preece, Ken Hillaby  
Adi Charikar, Akiba Charikar, Robert Preece



 **B'NAI BRITH**  
CALGARY LODGE #816  
& LODGE MENORAH FOUNDATION

WELCOMES  
**Noa Tishby**

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
1pm Doors Open  
1:30pm Program Begins

Sponsorship Information: 403.255.6554

[bnaibrithcalgary.org](http://bnaibrithcalgary.org)

TICKETS:  
Adult \$72  
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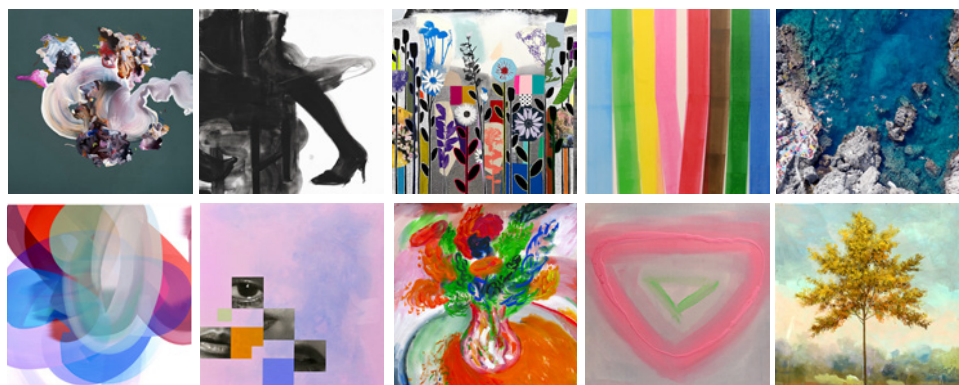
**PROUDLY SUPPORTS THE  
Beth Tzedec Jewish  
Film Festival**

**ON BEHALF OF  
The Sander Family**





NEWZONES GALLERY OF CONTEMPORARY ART



#### LEADING NAMES IN CONTEMPORARY ART

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DAVID ROBINSON | JULIAN SCHNABEL | MIRA SONG | KEVIN SONMOR  
DONALD SULTAN | SAMANTHA WALROD | JANNA WATSON



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# CALGARY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 1-16, 2025

25

## ADMISSION TO THE FESTIVAL

**A PASS FOR THE ENTIRE FESTIVAL**  
*(includes all films, guest speakers and receptions)*  
\$85 per person prior to November 1st  
(\$95 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 online at:*  
**WWW.CALGARYJEWISHFILMFESTIVAL.COM**  
or at the synagogue office by calling  
**403-255-8688**

## FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

7:30 PM The Blond Boy From The Casbah

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

1:00 PM Among Neighbors  
3:00 PM Labors Of Love: Henrietta Szold  
7:00 PM The Ring

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

7:00 PM Always Together

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

7:00 PM The Sea  
9:00 PM Soda

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

1:00 PM Ada: My Mother The Architect  
2:45 PM Charles Grodin: Rebel With A Cause  
7:00 PM The Last Twins

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

7:00 PM The Road Between Us  
9:00 PM Dead Language

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

1:00 PM Swedishkayt  
*preceded by the short film*  
Bazaar!.... The Story That Needs To Be Told  
3:15 PM Elie Wiesel: Soul On Fire  
7:00 PM Midas Man



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