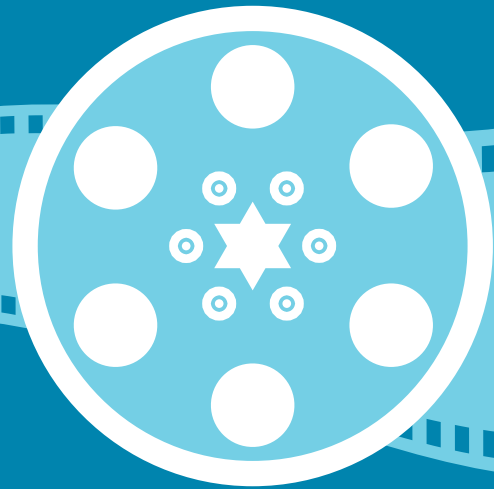


THE 23RD ANNUAL DAYTON JEWISH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FILM FEST



2023

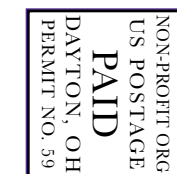
PRESENTED BY
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF GREATER DAYTON



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Jewish Federation
of Greater Dayton
525 Versailles Drive
Dayton, Ohio 45459
www.jewishdayton.org



2023 FILM FEST JUNE FILM LINE UP

THURSDAY 1 PERSIAN LESSONS 127 min. The Plaza 6:30PM Reception 7:15PM Film		FRI 2	SAT 3
SUNDAY 4	MON 5	TUESDAY 6 WHERE LIFE BEGINS 100 Min. 7:15PM, The Neon <i>Online June 6-8 (7PM)</i>	WED 7
SUN 11	MONDAY 12	TUESDAY 13 RECKONINGS 74 Min. 7:15PM, The Neon	WED 14
SUNDAY 18 KARAOKE 100 Min. 7:15PM, The Neon	MON 19	TUESDAY 20 IMORDECAI 102 Min. 9:30AM, The Neon. Reception in partnership with Hadassah 10:00am Film <i>Online June 20-22 (7PM)</i>	WED 21
SUNDAY 25 MARRYING MYSELF 100 Min. 7:15PM, The Plaza. <i>Join us for wedding cake after the film. Online June 25-27 (7PM)</i>	MON 26	TUESDAY 27 AMERICA 127 Min. 7:15PM, The Neon, <i>Online June 27-29 (7pm)</i>	WED 28
THURSDAY 8 CHARLOTTE 92 Min. 7:15PM, The Dayton Metro Library. <i>Free admission. Online June 8-10 (7PM)</i>		FRI 9	SAT 10
THURSDAY 15 EXODUS 91 90 Min. 7:15PM, The Neon		FRI 16	SAT 17
THURSDAY 22 THE MAN IN THE BASEMENT 114 Min. 7:15PM, The Neon		FRI 23	SAT 24
THURSDAY 29 FAREWELL MR. HAFFMANN 115 Min. 7:15PM, The Neon		FRI 30	SAT



INDIVIDUAL:
\$12

OPENING
NIGHT FILM &
RECEPTION:
\$18

SEASON PASS
(10 Films Plus
Opening Night):
\$85

Tickets
available online at
jewishdayton.org.
For assistance with
ordering, call
937-610-1555.



FOR IMORDECAI

Tara Feiner has been the Senior Director of Jewish Family Services (JFS) since 2015. Tara received her M.S. in Education from the University of Pennsylvania, her Principal certification from Drexel University, and over 18 years of experience in education, primarily in the School District of Philadelphia. In 2021, she earned her Executive Masters in Jewish Professional Studies from Spertus Institute for Leadership and Learning in Chicago, IL.



FOR CHARLOTTE

Edna Carter Southard's research concerns the connections among art, politics, and religion. So it is logical that she is involved in local government, and has served for eight years as a member of City Council for the City of Oxford, elected in 2013 and again in 2017. After retiring from Miami University, she published "Reclaiming the Biblical Narrative: Tradition, Innovation, and Gaze in Abel Pann's Art and Politics," (2018).



FOR EXODUS 91

Born in Ethiopia, Michal Avera Samuel was only eight years old when her family set out on a dangerous journey from Gondar, Ethiopia to Israel. Prior to their proverbial Exodus, Michal's eldest brother had been kidnapped by Mengistu's army. This tragedy propelled Michal's family, her parents and eight siblings, to embark on their dream of returning to Jerusalem, which included a six-week trek and a year spent in a refugee camp in Sudan.



FOR THE MAN IN THE BASEMENT

Michael Loadenthal serves as a Postdoctoral Fellow with the University of Cincinnati and the Executive Director of the Prosecution Project--the prosecutionproject.org -- an open-source project tracking and analyzing online extremist groups and political violence. Michael has served as a professor of political violence, terrorism, social movements, and sociology at various colleges and universities. He is the author of many articles and books,

and most recently the editor of Prosecuting Political Violence: Collaborative Research and Method (2021).



FOR RECKONINGS

Ori Yehudai is the Schottenstein Chair in Israel Studies and Associate Professor in the Department of History at OSU. He is the author of *Leaving Zion: Jewish Emigration from Palestine and Israel after World War II*, a finalist for a National Jewish Book Award. Ori earned his BA from Tel Aviv University and his PhD from the University of Chicago. Ori's research focuses on migration and displacement, transnational history, relations between Jews and non-Jews after the Holocaust. At Ohio State, Ori teaches courses on the history of Zionism and Modern Israel, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Jewish migration.

FILM FEST SPEAKERS

VENUES

THE PLAZA THEATRE 937-530-8013
33 S. Main St., Miamisburg, OH 45342

THE NEON 937-222-8452
130 E. 5th St., Dayton, OH 45402

DAYTON METRO LIBRARY 937-463-2665
215 E. Third St., Dayton, OH 45402

PERSIAN LESSONS

JUNE 1



DRAMA
127 Minutes

LANGUAGES

German, French, Italian, English, Persian

6:30PM RECEPTION AT THE PLAZA
7:15PM FILM
Occupied France, 1942. Gilles is arrested by SS soldiers alongside other Jews and sent to a camp in Germany. He narrowly avoids sudden execution by swearing to the guards that he is not Jewish, but Persian. This lie temporarily saves him, but Gilles gets assigned a shocking mission. Can he devise a strategy to endure under these conditions? A satisfying thriller of resistance, resilience, and courage in the face of evil. Loosely inspired by a short story from German writer Wolfgang Kohlhase, *Persian Letters* is an award-winning film that will inspire discussion about ingenuity, memory, and survival.

WHERE LIFE BEGINS

JUNE 6



DRAMA
100 Minutes

LANGUAGES

Italian, French with Subtitles, Available Online

7:15PM AT THE NEON
A Haredi Jewish family from Aix-les-Bains comes to a farm in Calabria, Italy for a brief stay every year to carry out a sacred mission: harvesting citrons. Here Elio, the farm owner, meets Esther, the rabbi's daughter, who is tired of the constraints imposed by her religion. Through this relationship, Esther will understand the importance of freedom and find her path, and, in the same way Elio will find the peace he had lost for a long time.

Winner: Jury Prize for Best Narrative Feature; Anchorage International Film Festival 2022
Audience Award for Best Narrative: Jewish International Film Festival Australia 2022

CHARLOTTE (FREE SCREENING)

JUNE 8



ANIMATED DRAMA
92 Minutes

LANGUAGES

English, Available Online

7:15PM AT THE DAYTON METRO LIBRARY
The true story of Charlotte Salomon, a young German-Jewish painter who comes of age in Berlin on the eve of the Second World War. Fiercely imaginative and deeply gifted, she dreams of becoming an artist. But the world around her is changing quickly and dangerously, limiting her options and derailing her dream. When antisemitic policies inspire violent mobs, she leaves Berlin for the safety of the south of France. There she begins to paint again and finds new love. But her work is interrupted, this time by a family tragedy that reveals an even darker secret. Believing that only an extraordinary act will save her, she embarks on the monumental adventure of painting her life story.

Winner: Audience Award, Music/Art/Design - 40th Vancouver International Film Festival



Join us early to view *Americans and the Holocaust*, a national traveling exhibition from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum that examines the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s. What more could have been done? Dayton Metro Library is honored to be one of only 50 academic and public libraries selected to host it during the initial tour.

RECKONINGS

JUNE 13



DOCUMENTARY
74 Minutes

LANGUAGES

English, German, Hebrew with Subtitles

7:15PM AT THE NEON
They met in secret to negotiate the unthinkable compensation for the survivors of the largest mass genocide in history. Survivors were in urgent need of help, but how could reparations be determined for the unprecedented destruction and suffering of a people? *Reckonings* recounts the tense negotiations between Jewish and German leaders. Under the constant threat of violence, they forged ahead, knowing it would never be enough but hoping it could at least be an acknowledgement and a step towards healing. *Reckonings* explores this untold true story set in the aftermath of the Holocaust.
Featured at more than ten Jewish film festivals including the Jerusalem JFF and UK JFF

EXODUS 91

JUNE 15



DOCUDRAMA
90 Minutes

LANGUAGES

English, Hebrew, Amharic

7:15PM AT THE NEON
This extraordinary film follows Israeli diplomat, Asher Naim, on a seemingly insurmountable mission: to bring 15,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel. As he learns more about these African Jews, he finds himself between worlds and faces a crisis of faith in himself and his country. Set in 1991 amidst the international politics behind Operation Solomon, Asher Naim learns he is being sent to Ethiopia to negotiate the release of thousands of Ethiopian Jews from a country collapsing under famine and civil war. Working with his Ethiopian-Israeli colleagues who themselves immigrated to Israel only a decade earlier, Asher's faith in his mission is tested as he navigates the treacherous world of bureaucracy and politics.

KARAOKE

JUNE 18



COMEDY DRAMA
100 Minutes

LANGUAGES

Hebrew with Subtitles

7:15PM AT THE NEON
FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL
First 50 dads free; must sign up with special code. See jewishdayton.org.

A bittersweet Israeli comedy about a middle-class suburban couple in their 60s who are drawn to their new neighbor, a charismatic bachelor who has karaoke evenings at his apartment.

IMORDECAI

JUNE 20



COMEDY
102 Minutes

LANGUAGE

English, Available Online

9:30AM RECEPTION. 10AM FILM AT THE NEON. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HADASSAH. OPEN TO ALL!
A heartwarming all-star comedy delighting festival audiences around the world. Technology-challenged Holocaust survivor Mordecai (Judd Hirsch, Ordinary People, Taxi, The Fablemens) must learn how to manage iPhones, Gen Z, his fretful wife (Carol Kane, Hester Street, Taxi), and his schlemiel son (Sean Astin, Lord of the Rings, Rudy). Based on a true story, *iMordecai* is a love-letter to Miami and the foibles of the Jewish family in the digital age.

THE MAN IN THE BASEMENT

JUNE 22



THRILLER/DRAMA
114 Minutes

LANGUAGE

French, with Subtitles

7:15PM AT THE NEON
"Provocative, Intelligent and Suspenseful" (Rex Reed), *The Man in the Basement* is a taut thriller of family dynamics in the presence of antisemitism. The Sandberg family have a new tenant—a seemingly eccentric history teacher who comes with secrets, an agenda, and a growing influence over their neighbors... even their daughter. A film set in contemporary France which explores the limits of tolerance, the intractability of racism, and the allure of conspiracy theories.

MARRYING MYSELF

JUNE 25



COMEDY
100 Minutes
LANGUAGE
Hebrew with Subtitles, Available Online

7:15PM AT THE PLAZA
A hilarious screwball comedy from Israel about life, love, and friendship.

An unmarried 38-year-old gives up on men but lives the fantasy of being a bride at a wedding so she decides to marry herself. While her selfish mother objects, her hilarious girlfriends support her and plan an extravagant event. What will she do when suddenly the right man shows up?

Join us for wedding cake after the film!

AMERICA

JUNE 27



DRAMA
127 Minutes
LANGUAGE
Hebrew with English Subtitles, Available Online

7:15PM AT THE NEON
An Israeli swimming instructor living in Chicago returns to Israel after ten years of absence to bury his father. An encounter with a beloved childhood friend and his newly engaged girlfriend sets a series of events in motion that affects everyone's lives. This story is set between a flower shop and an ancient monastery, between a swimming pool in Chicago and the Mediterranean, between life and death - and somewhere in the middle.

FAREWELL MR. HAFFMANN

JUNE 29



THRILLER
115 Minutes
LANGUAGE
French with English Subtitles

7:15PM AT THE NEON
CLOSING NIGHT.
A flawless adaptation of an award-winning play by Jean-Philippe Daguerrre, *Farewell Mr. Haffmann* is a tense thriller about three people caught in occupied Paris. Joseph Haffmann is the owner of a jewelry shop, now placed in the hands of his Catholic employee François. Desperate and hiding in the basement of his own shop, Haffmann's cordial relationship with François and his wife takes a dark turn as a once good man is slowly corrupted by wartime greed and new-found authority. Described as "a constant and well-executed suspense that leans into the brilliant trio of performers" (La Nación, Argentina), *Farewell Mr. Haffmann* is a thoughtful account of the power dynamics between rescuer and rescued.

The 23rd Annual Dayton Jewish International Film Festival sincerely thanks the following for their support:

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CATEGORIES ARE AS FOLLOWS.
Studio Executive: \$2500+
Director: \$1000+
Screen Writer: \$500+
Actor: \$250+
Supporting Actor: \$100+
Crew: \$18+

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