

2025

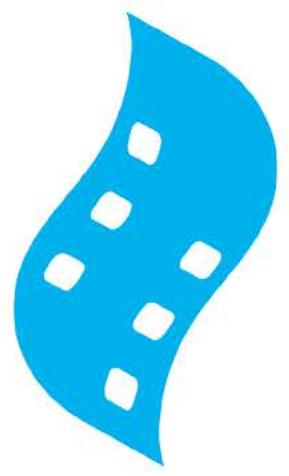
FILM

2025

FILM



PRESENTED BY
FILM PITTSBURGH



APRIL 24 → MAY 4



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MEDIA



SINGLE TICKETS

In Person Opening Night & Beatles-Themed Cocktail Reception

- \$36 General Admission
- \$136 Festival Friend: (\$36 ticket + \$100 charitable contribution)

Closing Day – Double Feature Matchmaking & Matchmaking 2 with Sweet Treats from Oakmont Bakery

- \$25 General Admission Double Feature
- Single film tickets available, \$18 each film
- \$100 Festival Friend: (\$25 ticket + \$75 charitable contribution)

In Person and Virtual

- \$18 General Admission
- \$100 Festival Friend: (\$18 ticket + \$82 charitable contribution)
- \$10 – Age 25 and under (with ID, in person, at door only, does not include opening night)
- \$5 – Students (full-time with ID, in person, at door only, does not include opening night)

Tickets are available in advance at FilmPittsburgh.org

Online sales end at 10am for that night's film(s).

If not sold out, remaining tickets will be sold at the venue beginning 30 minutes prior to show time.

PASSES

Combo In Person & Virtual (DOES NOT INCLUDE OPENING NIGHT) (\$306 value)

- \$150 Early Bird – by April 20
- \$180 Regular Price

Combo Passholders save \$10 each on admission to the National Comedy Center for up to 4 people!

Virtual Films (\$108 value)

- \$65 Early Bird – by April 20
- \$80 Regular Price

IN-PERSON SCREENINGS

VENUES

McConomy Auditorium Carnegie Mellon University (inside the Cohon University Center) (MAY 3 ONLY)

5034 Forbes Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Paid parking is available in the East Campus Garage, a short walk from the theater.

The Oaks Theater (APRIL 24-MAY 2, MAY 4)

310 Allegheny River Blvd
Oakmont, PA 15139

Free street parking is available in the neighborhood surrounding the theater.

ACCESSIBILITY

Our venues are wheelchair accessible. We are happy to provide ASL or audio description with advance notice. Please reserve one week in advance by calling 412-426-FILM (3456) or

email us Info@FilmPittsburgh.org. The Oaks Theater does not have an accessible restroom but one is available at the restaurant next door. Please reach out with any questions about accommodations.

Q&As / PANELS / FILM SCHMOOZE

Some in-person screenings are followed by Q&As and/or panel discussions with members of the filmmaking teams and/or local guests.

Additionally, there will be opportunities for you to discuss certain films with fellow audience members through engaging Film Schmooze discussions sponsored by University of Pittsburgh, Jewish Studies Program. Look for Film Schmooze information on individual film pages in this guide and on our website.

VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

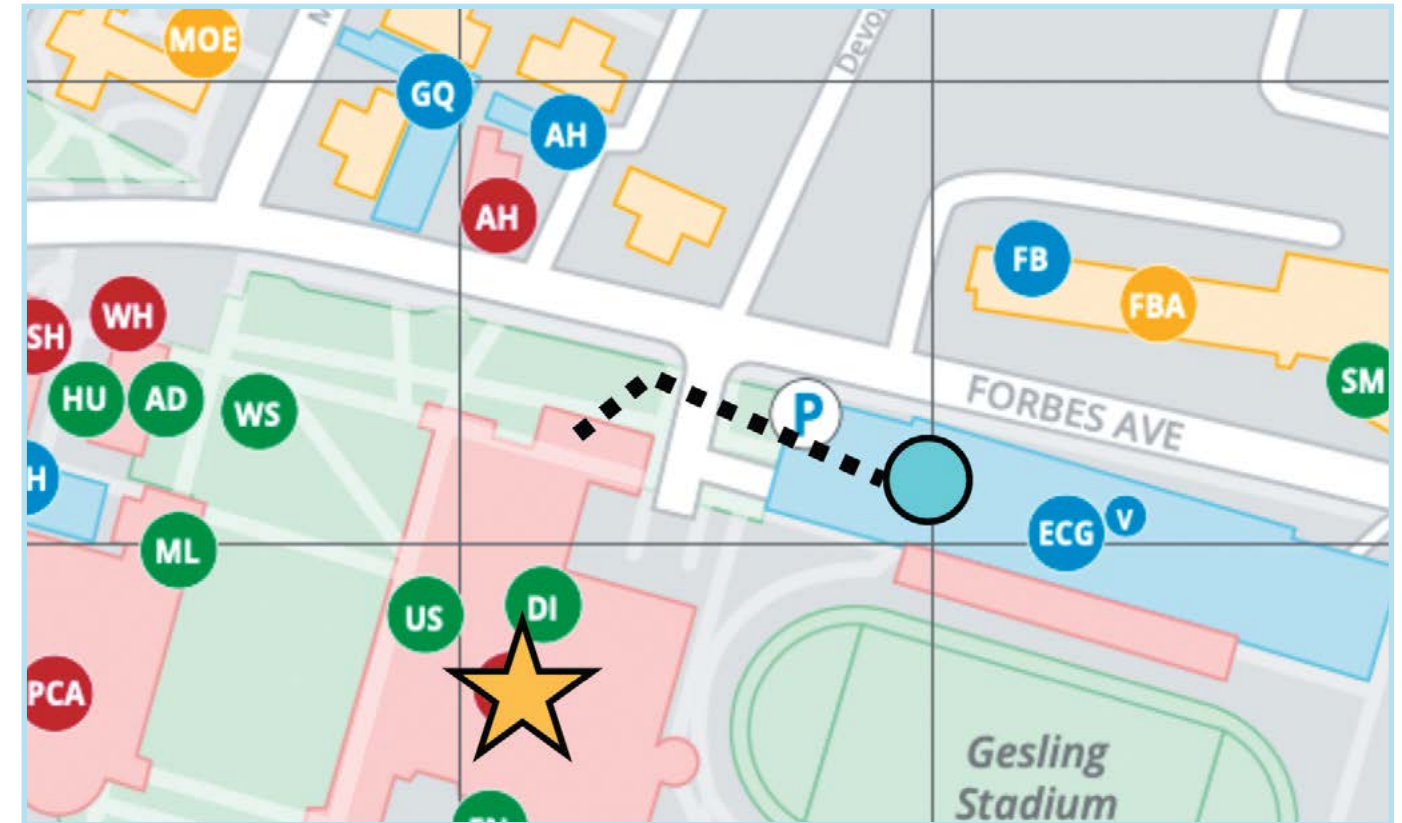
Film distributors dictate where and when our selected films can be streamed. All of this year's virtual offerings are available for viewing in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. Virtual films are available for viewing from April 25 – May 4 and are available to view for 48 hours after you begin watching until 11:59pm on May 4.

EVENTIVE PLATFORM

If you joined us for virtual viewing in the past, your Eventive account is already active! You must use the same email address to access your existing account. From this

CMU McConomy Auditorium

Please join us at McConomy Auditorium, located at 5034 Forbes Ave on the first floor of the Cohon University Center. Paid parking is available for your convenience in the East Campus Garage, a 2-minute walk from the Center.



platform, you will watch films and vote! If you're new to this platform, you will receive an email after your ticket purchase telling you how to easily activate your free account.

VOTING FOR AUDIENCE AWARDS – VIRTUAL FILMS ONLY

We announce Audience Awards at the end of all of our festivals, so please rate each film after you watch it. Here's how: allow the credits to play all the way through to the end. You will automatically be taken back to the "Watch Now" page where you will see a button to rate the film. If you have any issues with

this process, please reach out to us at Info@FilmPittsburgh.org so we can help you!

HELP WITH VIRTUAL FILMS

Watch.eventive.org

All virtual screenings will take place on Eventive. For help with virtual viewing, please see the Virtual FAQs page on our website or visit watch.eventive.org and click on "Need Help" in the upper right corner.

Info@FilmPittsburgh.org

If you are still having technical difficulties, please reach out. While we can't improve your internet connection, we've

mastered this virtual platform and are standing by to help you connect so you don't miss any of these great films!

The fastest way to reach us is by email:

Info@FilmPittsburgh.org

Or call us at 412-426-FILM (3456). Someone will return your call as quickly as possible, but definitely within 24 hours.

CONTENT / RATINGS

We have made every effort to list adult content after the film description. Independent films are not rated and may contain disturbing language or images.

All content is subject to change.

Dear Film Pittsburgh's Major Donors:

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Your donations help us bring the best films and filmmakers to Pittsburgh, enriching the arts scene and helping people discover the stories that connect us all.

Thank you!
Love, the Film Pittsburgh Team



Support Film Pittsburgh today!

Why? Because tickets sales aren't enough.
Scan the QR code above or visit
filmpittsburgh.org/pages/support.

JFILM FESTIVAL 2025 OPENING NIGHT



OPENING NIGHT MIDAS MAN Thursday, April 24

IN PERSON Midas Man

Pittsburgh Premiere
Director: Joe Stephenson
2024, UK, 112 minutes

English

Our Opening Night film is a stylish musical biopic that explores the life of Brian Epstein, the visionary Jewish manager whose bold guidance propelled the Beatles to their meteoric rise and global stardom. Known as the "fifth Beatle," Epstein ushered the scrappy Liverpool band from smoky backroom clubs to sold-out stadiums, but his brilliance was at times overshadowed by his own personal demons. Jacob Fortune-Lloyd (*The Queen's Gambit*) delivers an incredibly raw and authentic portrayal of Epstein, a world class disrupter long before anyone ever started using that terminology. Featuring a wonderfully nostalgic soundtrack and the kaleidoscopic backdrop of the Swinging Sixties in London, *Midas Man* delivers a wonderfully bittersweet portrayal of the man who made sure the entire world came to know the Beatles!

Official Selection: Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival

OPENING NIGHT PARTY

Join us for our Opening Night Beatles-themed cocktail reception with light bites at 6:30pm before the screening. We'll celebrate the music of the Beatles and launch our 32nd JFilm Festival in style.

Thursday, April 24

**6:30pm Cocktail Reception
7:30pm Film**

The Oaks Theater

Special ticket price applies



ROBINSON SHORT FILM COMPETITION

Join us for a celebration of Jewish-themed short films from around the globe.

**CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF ART THEATER
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025 → 7:30 PM**

FilmPittsburgh.org/Robinson





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and build a safer,
more inclusive world!**

Our special thanks to the
Arthur J. and Betty F. Diskin
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CLOSING DAY – DOUBLE FEATURE – FILM ONE
IN PERSON + VIRTUAL
Matchmaking

JFilm Encore Presentation

Director: Erez Tadmor
2022, Israel, 96 minutes

Hebrew and Yiddish with subtitles

Like a modern-day Romeo, Moti (Amit Rahav from Netflix's *Unorthodox*) falls head over heels for his sister's friend Nechama, but isn't allowed to date the charming, beautiful young woman because she comes from a Mizrahi (Middle Eastern) family, not an Ashkenazi (European) family like his own. To the great despair of both his parents and an exasperated matchmaker, he goes to comical lengths to pursue his one true love. Featuring an award-winning cast, this Israeli box office sensation delivers a healthy dose of laughter in a lighthearted tale of love and tolerance.

Winner: Audience Award – 2023 Miami Jewish Film Festival

"The take-home in this polished box office hit is that the ultra-Orthodox may take their matchmaking seriously, but love is love, especially in a Haredi rom-com." – Jessica Steinberg, *The Times of Israel*

With sweet treats from Oakmont Bakery

Sunday, May 4, 3:15pm

The Oaks Theater



CLOSING DAY – DOUBLE FEATURE – FILM TWO
IN PERSON
Matchmaking 2

Pittsburgh Premiere

Director: Erez Tadmor
2024, Israel, 110 minutes

Hebrew with subtitles

Our Closing Day double feature concludes with, *Matchmaking 2*, Israel's biggest box office hit of the past year. This charming sequel finds Baruch at age 28, considered "over the hill" in the ultra-Orthodox world, desperately hoping to find his match. Soon he finds himself head over heels in love with Shira, the daughter of tough Matchmaker Malki, who's been trying to find his perfect pairing. Meanwhile, Malki attempts to match Baruch with Ruth, a kind baker with a heart full of hope. As Malki and Baruch both begin to meddle, in an effort to achieve their preferred outcomes, hilarity and potential heartbreak ensue. *Matchmaking 2* features a wonderful ensemble cast including Maor Schwietzer as Baruch, Irit Kaplan as Malki, Omer Nudelman, in her feature film debut, as Malki's daughter, Shira, and Niv Sultan, Schwietzer's real-life wife as Ruth. Together they deliver wonderful performances that allow this romantic comedy to offer a dash of mischief, a pinch of mayhem, and a healthy dose of love, laughter and heartfelt tears.

Official Selection: Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival

"*Matchmaking 2* is as hysterical as the original." – Danielle Solzman – *Solzy at the Movies*

With sweet treats from Oakmont Bakery

Sunday, May 4, 5:30pm

The Oaks Theater



IN PERSON

Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round

Pittsburgh Premiere

Director: Ilana Trachtman

2024, USA, 90 minutes

English

In June of 1960, despite the obstacles of sweltering summer heat and the violence of American Nazi Party counter-protestors, a contingent of Black students from Howard University found themselves joined by white suburbanites, many of whom were Jewish to protest the segregated Glen Echo Amusement Park in Maryland. Emmy-award winning director Ilana Trachtman reveals the story behind this unlikely alliance which was the first organized interracial civil rights protest in US history. Featuring gripping historical footage and vivid firsthand testimonials her film highlights a little-known moment in US history. With narration by Jeffrey Wright and Mandy Patinkin, *Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round* serves as a timely reminder of how far we've come and how far we still may have to go.

Official Selection: Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Boston Jewish Film Festival, San Francisco Jewish Film Festival

Winner – Building Bridges Award – Atlanta Jewish Film Festival

"With its rich historical narrative and compelling delivery, this documentary is a must-watch that offers valuable lessons and lasting inspiration for all." – Chris Jones, *Overly Honest Reviews*

Join us for Film Schmooze* led by Dr. Rachel Kranson, University of Pittsburgh, and Tim Smith, Center of Life, after the screening.

Thursday, May 1, 7pm

The Oaks Theater

**Film Schmooze is a casual post-film discussion sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh – Jewish Studies program.*



IN PERSON

All God's Children

Pittsburgh Premiere

Director: Ondi Timoner

2024, USA, 100 minutes

English

Facing ever-growing tensions between Jewish and Black Brooklynites and concerned about the future, a pair of spiritual leaders decide to embark on an experimental journey of interfaith exploration. Acclaimed filmmaker Ondi Timoner follows her sister, activist Rabbi Rachel Timoner, and her Congregation Beth Elohim as they partner with Reverend Dr. Robert Waterman and his Antioch Baptist Church, setting a course to attempt to heal centuries of racism and antisemitism in their communities. Shot over five years, the film reveals the struggles that threaten to drive the congregations apart—and it depicts their courage as they boldly share their truths and do what seems unimaginable in our current times. Both communities stay in the room, have difficult conversations, and listen to one another as they attempt to both understand and be understood. In the process, they become a shining example of what it means to truly honor and respect one another's differences.

Official Selection: Doc NYC, Miami Film Festival

"*All God's Children* is unusual in that, although it, too, is very much in and about the present moment, it's a film that's also in dialogue — thoughtfully, and powerfully — with the past." – Damon Wise, *Deadline*

Saturday, May 3, 2pm

CMU - McConomy Auditorium

TOYLAND 1945
Waltz with Bashir
Brave Miss World
THE RAPE OF EUROPA
Cupcakes NOODLE
A Tale of Love and Darkness

Celebrating The JFilm Festival

Marcus & Shapira is proud to help present
the best contemporary selection of culturally-diverse, Jewishly-inspired films
that entertain, educate and illuminate audiences.

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IN PERSON
Auction

Pittsburgh Premiere
Director: Pascal Bonitzer
2024, France, 91 minutes

English, French, German with subtitles

Auctioneer and modern art appraiser André lives, breathes, and sleeps his work. An expert in his field, he knows how to spot and close substantial deals with hefty payouts. That is, until he discovers a genuine Egon Schiele painting that was thought to be lost for nearly 70 years. Initially doubting its authenticity, André investigates the painting's origins, learning that it was owned by a wealthy Austrian-Jewish collector before being looted by the Nazis. Presenting the chance to significantly boost his career, André races to close a deal on the painting, but faces professional and personal challenges along the way that compel him to reflect on his place in the fast-paced, cutthroat world of high art and finance.

Official Selection: Miami Jewish Film Festival, Toronto Jewish Film Festival, UK Jewish Film Festival

Saturday, April 26, 4:30pm

The Oaks Theater



IN PERSON
Bad Shabbos

Film Pittsburgh Encore Presentation
Director: Daniel Robbins
2024, USA, 84 minutes

English

Kyra Sedgwick, Cliff "Method Man" Smith, and David Paymer lead an ensemble cast in the hilarious award-winning comedy *Bad Shabbos*. This winner of the Audience Choice Award for Best Feature Film at the 2024 Tribeca Film Festival finds David's very Jewish family preparing for their traditional Shabbat dinner where they will meet and host his fiancée Meg's devoutly Catholic parents for the first time. But things quickly spiral out of control when an accidental death, or could it be a murder, occurs, leaving the family to scramble to come up with a solution. What ensues is the biting satire and hilariously messy domestic mishigas that you might expect when an interfaith clash of families takes place on New York's Upper West Side. Be prepared to leave reason and rationale at the door and laugh out loud at this dark comedy from director Daniel Robbins.

Official Selection: Tribeca, Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival

Winner: Audience Award – 2024 Tribeca Film Festival Best Narrative Feature Film

Saturday, May 3, 7pm

CMU – McConomy Auditorium



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IN PERSON

The Blond Boy from the Casbah

Pittsburgh Premiere

Director: Alexandre Arcady
2024, France, 134 minutes

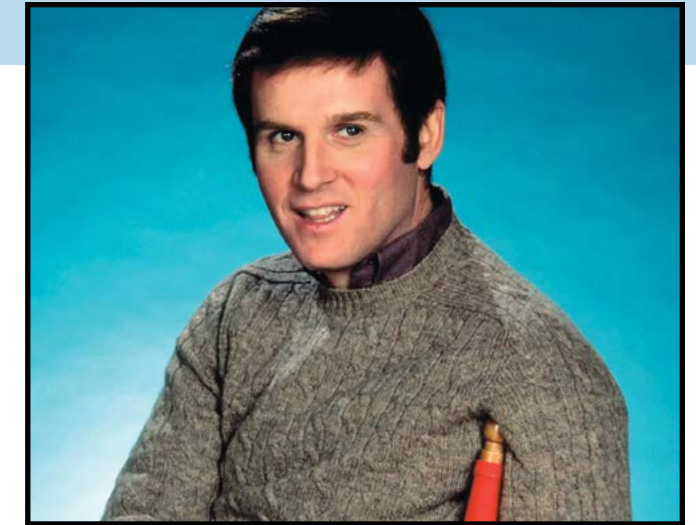
French with subtitles

Antoine, a passionate and celebrated filmmaker, returns to his birthplace of Algiers accompanied by his young son. There to present his new film, an account of his mid-20th century childhood in Algeria during the country's civil war, he and his son explore the city igniting a flood of nostalgia. Having emigrated to France with his family many years earlier, he reflects on his Sephardic upbringing as a child in a multicultural neighborhood of Jews, Muslims, and Christians. This semi-autobiographical dramedy finds a father and son bonding over tales of school, old friends, and an early fascination with cinema. As it comes to life on the streets of Algiers, Alexandre Arcady's vibrant memoir, *The Blond Boy from the Casbah*, evokes the look and feel of a bygone era.

Official Selection: Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival

Monday, April 28, 7pm

The Oaks Theater



IN PERSON + VIRTUAL

Charles Grodin: Rebel with a Cause

Pittsburgh Premiere

Director: James Freedman
2024, USA, 92 minutes

English

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, Charles Grodin's amazing life is beautifully honored in director James Freedman's new documentary, *Charles Grodin: Rebel with a Cause*. Known for his sharp wit and incredible depth as an actor, Grodin is often remembered for his brilliant performances in *The Heartbreak Kid* and *Midnight Run*. A master in the art of deadpan, he delivered some of the most hilarious performances of his career during his numerous appearances on *The Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson and *Late Night* with David Letterman. But in an incredibly admirable twist, Grodin used his role as a CNBC talk show host to launch himself into the role of social activist. He became a fierce champion for prison reform and for the last twenty years of his life worked tirelessly to get several unfairly convicted women out of prison, many of whom were mothers of color with children at home. A true Pittsburgh hometown hero, his life story starts as a steady ripple of laughter that continues to rise only to surprise everyone and become a tidal wave of hope.

Official Selection: World Premiere – Atlanta Jewish Film Festival

Friday, April 25, 7pm

The Oaks Theater

6524 Wilkins Ave
Squirrel Hill

Tue-Fri 7a-6p
Sat 8a-5p
Sun 8a-2p

FivePointsArtisanBakeshop.com

JFILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

APRIL 24 → MAY 4
TICKETS AT FILMPITTSBURGH.ORG

PLAYING VIRTUALLY
April 25-May 4
PA, WV, and OH

Charles Grodin:
Rebel with a Cause
Day Trippers
The Glory of Life
Matchmaking
Mazel Tov
Never Alone

VENUES

CMU
McConomy Auditorium

THE OAKS
The Oaks Theater

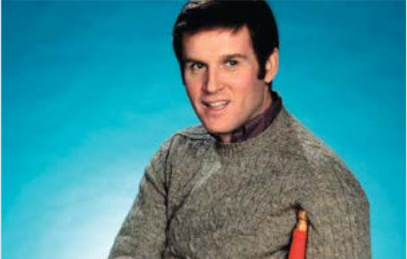
THURSDAY
APRIL
24  **OPENING NIGHT**

6:30 pm Cocktail Reception
7:30 pm Film
Midas Man (112m)
Preceded by Beatles-themed cocktail reception.
Special ticket price applies
THE OAKS



FRIDAY
APRIL
25

7 pm
Charles Grodin:
Rebel with a Cause (92m)
THE OAKS



SATURDAY
APRIL
26

1:30 pm
Elie Wiesel:
Soul on Fire (87m)
WITH GUEST
THE OAKS

4:30 pm
Auction (91m)
THE OAKS

7 pm
Come Closer (107m)
CENTERPIECE
THE OAKS

SUNDAY
APRIL
27

1:30 pm
Soul of a Nation (105m)
THE OAKS

4 pm
Never Alone (85m)
THE OAKS
*FILM SCHMOOZE**

7 pm
Mazel Tov (97m)
THE OAKS

MONDAY
APRIL
28

7 pm
The Blond Boy
from the Casbah (134m)
THE OAKS



TUESDAY
APRIL
29

7 pm
Sabbath Queen (105m)
WITH GUESTS
THE OAKS




WEDNESDAY
APRIL
30

7 pm
Yaniv (85m)
WITH GUESTS
THE OAKS


THURSDAY
MAY
1

7 pm
Ain't No Back to
a Merry-Go-Round (90m)
*FILM SCHMOOZE**
THE OAKS



FRIDAY
MAY
2

7 pm
The Glory of Life (98m)
THE OAKS




SATURDAY
MAY
3

2 pm
All God's Children (100m)
CMU

4:30 pm
Day Trippers (97m)
CMU

7 pm
Bad Shabbos (84m)
CMU

SUNDAY
MAY
4  **CLOSING DAY DOUBLE FEATURE**

3:15 pm
Matchmaking (96m)
With sweet treats from Oakmont Bakery beginning at 2:45pm
Discounted ticket price applies for double feature
THE OAKS

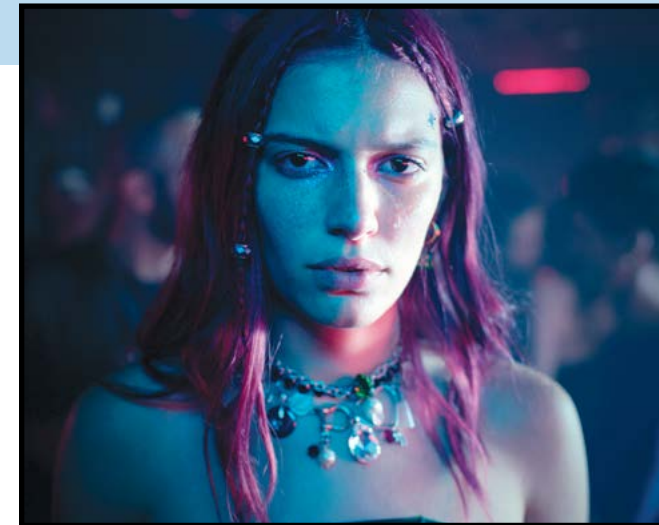
5:30 pm
Matchmaking 2 (110m)
With sweet treats from Oakmont Bakery beginning at 5pm
THE OAKS
Discounted ticket price applies for double feature

Independent films are not rated and may contain disturbing language or images.

**Film Schmooze is a casual post-film discussion sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh – Jewish Studies program.*



innovation
inspiration
inclusion



CENTERPIECE
IN PERSON
Come Closer
Pittsburgh Premiere
Director: Tom Neshor
2024, Israel, 107 minutes

Hebrew with subtitles

Winner of Israel's Ophir Award for Best Picture and their official selection for the Academy Awards for Best International Feature Film, *Come Closer* is a beautiful exploration of love, loss, and resilience. Lia Elalouf delivers a stunning performance in her feature film debut as Eden, a young woman who has been devastated by the sudden death of her younger brother, Nati. When Eden discovers that Nati had a secret girlfriend, she makes clandestine efforts to learn more and, in the process, embarks on a complicated journey of self-discovery. Inspired by director Tom Neshor's personal tragedy—the death of a younger brother—the film received 13 Ophir Award Nominations and, in addition to the Best Picture win, earned Neshor a Best Director Award, Elalouf a Best Actress Award, and editor Shaul Melamed an award for Best Editing. *Come Closer* was an official selection at both the prestigious Palm Springs International Film Festival and the Tribeca Film Festival where it won the Tribeca Viewpoints Award.

Epilepsy Warning: This film may potentially trigger seizures for people with photosensitive epilepsy.

Official Selection: Tribeca, Palm Springs Film Festival, Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival

Winner: Israel Ophir Awards for Best Picture, Best Director (Tom Neshor), Best Actress (Lia Elalouf), and Best Editing (Shaul Melamed) & Tribeca Viewpoints Award

Saturday, April 26, 7pm

The Oaks Theater



IN PERSON + VIRTUAL
Day Trippers
Pittsburgh Premiere
Director: Veronica Kedar
2024, Israel, 97 minutes

English, Hebrew with subtitles

Zoe, a young British teen roaming the streets of Amsterdam and avoiding her mother's funeral, randomly meets and enlists the help of, Ruth, an Israeli woman avoiding her own wedding, to secure some hallucinogenic mushrooms. What ensues is one of the unlikeliest of buddy comedies as the two share a playful, psychedelic and unforgettable trip. Having formed an improbable connection, they wander the city together, escaping their troubles and sharing profound epiphanies all in the course of one wildly eventful and often otherworldly day. Featuring wonderfully endearing and hilarious performances by lead actors, Nell Barlow and Naama Amit, *Day Trippers* is a charming and whimsical slice-of-life dramedy that might be just what the "Green Doctor" ordered. Director Veronica Kedar's film is both grounded and nuanced and serves as an imaginative reminder that, with or without the help of hallucinogens, profound connections often happen when we least expect them.

Official Selection: Cinequest Film Festival, San Francisco Jewish Film Festival

Saturday, May 3, 4:30pm

CMU – McConomy Auditorium

JEWISH STORY PARTNERS

JSP is so proud to have supported these films screening at JFILM

Ain't No Back To A Merry-Go-Round

All God's Children

Elie Wiesel: Soul On Fire

Sabbath Queen



ARE YOU AN EDUCATOR?

Film Pittsburgh's free film education program has so much to offer your classroom.

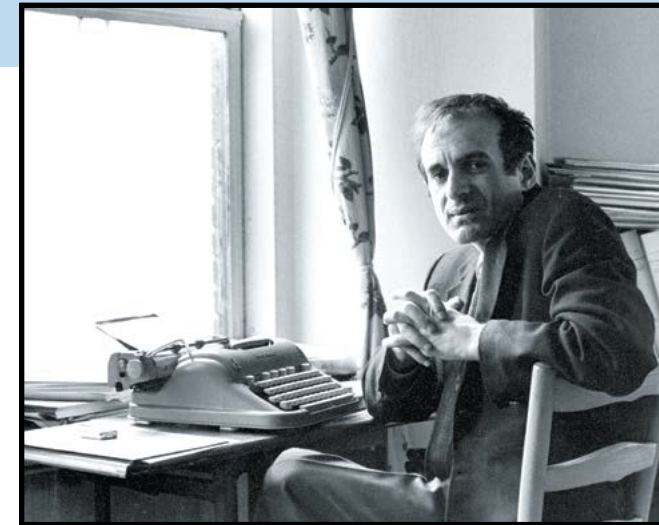


TEEN SCREEN

Learning Through a Different Lens

Since 2005, Teen Screen has offered free educational experiences that allow middle and high school students to explore important, often difficult, topics through film. Over 25,000 students and teachers per year have joined together in movie theaters and in classrooms to watch and discuss movies of historical, cultural, and social significance.

Browse our roster of films at FilmPittsburgh.org/TeenScreen!



IN PERSON

Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire

Pittsburgh Premiere
 Director: Oren Rudavsky
 2024, USA, 87 minutes

English, French, German, Hebrew with subtitles

Through poignant detail and compelling visuals, this documentary pays homage to Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, whose renowned literary influence and human rights advocacy work has ensured the Holocaust will never be forgotten, nor will humanity's responsibility to honor the victims and survivors. Through archival interviews with Wiesel and members of his family, award-winning filmmaker Oren Rudavsky weaves the story of Wiesel's life, starting with his childhood in Romania and moving to the atrocities and devastation he experienced in Nazi concentration camps, culminating in his transformation into a seminal voice for justice and morality. Paired with striking, imaginative visuals, audiences are given an unprecedented glimpse into Wiesel's personal thoughts and reflections as Wiesel describes his struggles with faith, survivor's guilt, and navigating his role as a prominent activist, which inspired him to write his 1958 memoir, *Night*. Exploring the lasting legacy of Wiesel's fight against indifference, the film demonstrates his profound impact on education, historical preservation, and his family, as his grandson honors his heritage.

Official Selection: Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival

Post-film discussion led by **Roberta Grossman, Executive Director of Jewish Story Partners.**

Supported in part by **Classrooms Without Borders**

Saturday, April 26, 1:30pm

The Oaks Theater



IN PERSON + VIRTUAL

The Glory of Life

Pittsburgh Premiere
 Directors: Judith Kaufmann, Georg Maas
 2024, Germany, 98 minutes

German with subtitles

In the summer of 1923, amid his fight against tuberculosis, writer Franz Kafka travels to the seaside resort Graal-Mürzitz to improve his living conditions—and leaves with an understanding of the glory of life. After meeting Dora Diamant, a dancer who works at the resort, Kafka—who struggles with his overbearing family and often keeps to himself—finds a connection he's never known. As he and Dora grow closer and develop an understanding of one another, Kafka is inspired to live the remainder of his life to the fullest. Despite the health complications, Kafka travels to Berlin to be with Dora, where they experience a year together full of joy and love as well as hardship. Based on the true story of the last year of Franz Kafka's life, this deeply touching film explores the power of love and its ability to bring light into our lives, even in the darkest of times.

Official Selection: Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Boca International Jewish Film Festival

Friday, May 2, 7pm

The Oaks Theater

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IN PERSON + VIRTUAL
Mazel Tov

Pittsburgh Premiere
Director: Adrián Suar
2025, Argentina, 97 minutes
Spanish with subtitles

Hoping to rebuild family ties with his estranged father and brothers, Dario travels from the US to his hometown in Argentina to attend his sister Daniela's wedding and his niece's Bat Mitzvah. As he and his three siblings make their way home, their father has a sudden stroke and passes away. Facing the decision as to whether they should move forward with the celebrations during the period of mourning, they find themselves thrust right back into the family dramas of old. As this group of quirky but often familiar characters painstakingly try to find a way past the hurts and misunderstandings of the past, a loving family with all its sibling rivalries, shortcomings, and strengths is joyfully revealed. *Mazel Tov* is an Argentinian comedy that delightfully reminds us that nothing ever goes quite as planned.

Official Selection: Boca International Jewish Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival

Sunday, April 27, 7pm

The Oaks Theater



IN PERSON + VIRTUAL
Never Alone

Pittsburgh Premiere
Director: Klaus Härö
2024, Finland, 85 minutes
Finnish with subtitles

Never Alone tells the gripping story of Jewish refugees seeking safety in Finland during WWII. As Nazi influence grows, the Finnish-Jewish businessman Abraham Stiller (Ville Virtanen, Netflix's *Bordertown*) risks everything to protect the refugee community. This powerful film showcases courage, resilience, and the fight for hope amidst overwhelming adversity. Based on actual events during World War II, celebrated director Klaus Härö (*The Fencer, My Sailor, My Love*) shines a light on the plight of Jewish refugees seeking sanctuary in Finland and the unwavering hero who risked everything to protect them.

Content Warning: This film contains material that may be difficult for some viewers. Viewer discretion is advised.

Official Selection: Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival

Join us for Film Schmooze* led by Dr. Jonathan Zisook, University of Pittsburgh, after the screening.

Supported in part by the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh

Sunday, April 27, 4pm

The Oaks Theater

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*Film Schmooze is a casual post-film discussion sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh – Jewish Studies program.



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JFILM FESTIVAL 2025 FILM GUIDE



IN PERSON Sabbath Queen

Pittsburgh Premiere
Director: Sandi DuBowski
2024, USA, 105 minutes

English, Hebrew, Yiddish with subtitles

As a successor in a storied Ashkenazi rabbinic dynasty, Amichai Lau-Lavie's life was paved with expectations from birth. However, conflicted by the rules of his Orthodox Jewish upbringing and a desire to live his life truthfully and authentically, Amichai chose to forge his own path and break new ground in the process. A Tribeca Best Documentary nominee, *Sabbath Queen* follows Amichai's journey through two decades of his life as he challenges the customs of the Orthodox Jewish faith and navigates his position as a trailblazing spiritual leader. From establishing a first of its kind inclusive congregation, Lab/Shul, to developing his drag queen persona and being a queer father, this film explores every aspect of Amichai's life with sincerity and intimacy.

Through archival material, candid interviews, and thought-provoking commentary, *Sabbath Queen* explores the complex struggle between tradition and modernity, and one man's lifelong attempt to find a bridge between them.

Official Selection: Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival

Followed by a Q&A with director Sandi DuBowski and special guest, Kohenet Keshira haLev Fife, Founding Kohenet of Keshet Pittsburgh

Tuesday, April 29, 7pm

The Oaks Theater

Community Partner: REEL Q: PITTSBURGH LGBTQ+ FILM FESTIVAL



IN PERSON Soul of a Nation

Pittsburgh Premiere
Director: Jonathan Jakubowicz
2025, USA, Israel, 105 minutes

English and Hebrew with subtitles

Soul of a Nation is an inspiring and eye-opening film that delves into Israel's most perilous chapter in recent history—a period defined by profound internal divisions, political unrest, and external threats that pushed the nation to the brink of collapse. Through candid interviews with key political leaders, including former Prime Ministers Naftali Bennett and Ehud Olmert, Knesset Member Simcha Rothman, former Supreme Court President Dorit Beinisch, former Israeli Ambassador to the United States Michael Oren, and former Foreign Ministers Tzipi Livni and Shlomo Ben Ami, the film takes you inside Israeli society through the perspectives of its most influential voices. Drawing on insights from Nobel laureates, Muslim leaders, peace activists, and other prominent figures, *Soul of a Nation* dismantles preconceived notions about one of the world's most scrutinized countries, delivering an unfiltered look at the nation, its people, and the monumental challenges that will shape the lives of millions for generations to come.

Official Selection: Miami Jewish Film Festival, Boca International Jewish Film Festival

"Even during dark times of polarization, Soul of a Nation shows the importance of unity, even when it might seem impossible." – Danielle Solzman – *Solzy at the Movies*

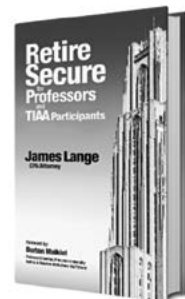
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JFILM FESTIVAL 2025 FILM GUIDE



IN PERSON

Yaniv

Pittsburgh Premiere

Director: Amnon Carmi

2024, USA, 85 minutes

English

What do you do when the cards aren't in your favor? Change the game. When high school teacher Barry Bernstein loses funding for the annual school musical, he enlists the help of his colleague Jonah to cheat in an underground card game run by the Hasidic Jewish community. However, as the plan goes awry and secrets of Jonah's past are revealed, the pair find themselves getting more than they bargained for. A wild ride from start to finish, *Yaniv* unpacks Jewish identity, male friendship, and public education through the lens of an absurd, madcap comedy.

Official Selection: Miami Jewish Film Festival, UK Jewish Film Festival

Followed by Q&A with director/co-writer Amnon Carmi and actor/writer Ben Ducoff.

Wednesday, April 30, 7pm

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