



PRESENTED BY
FILM PITTSBURGH

J FILM

APRIL 30  MAY 10

GET TICKETS

FILMPITTSBURGH.ORG

CMU's McConomy Auditorium
The Lindsay Theater
Row House Hollywood

JFILM 2026 SPONSORS

Premiere



Platinum



Prime



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Media



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear JFilm Community,

In a rapidly shifting world that seems to put empathy on the backburner in the interest of gaining finite resources like land and oil, I like to remember that love is not a finite resource—we can hold love and compassion in our hearts for ourselves, our Jewish Community, and our Middle Eastern community. As you watch the films in the 2026 edition of our festival, we invite you to keep your hearts open during Israeli-made films like *THE SEA* and *LOST IN TERRITORIES*. We have also programmed a block of shorts we're calling *VIEWPOINTS* to offer a platform for multiple perspectives in our post-October 7th world.

In films like *ETHAN BLOOM*, *HOLD ON TO YOUR MUSIC*, and *SWEDISHKAYT*, we celebrate Jewish joy! From the Gen Z dry humor of *CUZ YOU'RE UGLY* to the baby boomer romance of *BLISS*, these films depict the full spectrum of life. There's even a little bit of joy to be had in a bloody thriller like *VINDICTA*. We cannot have the light without the dark, which is particularly poignant in *HOLDING LIAT*, where there is the joy of being reunited with family while also feeling the sorrow of loss from October 7th. And there is even more beauty to be discovered in gorgeous dramas like *DEAD LANGUAGE* and *THE SOUNDMAN*.

This year, we are also honoring our roots by presenting a new Audience Award, the first annual Harvey Sloan Award for Best Short Film. Jeff Finkelstein, CEO of Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, says, "Harvey Sloan served many positions within the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. Through them all, he was a champion of JFilm, believing that the community could engage more people in Jewish life through cultural arts. This is a beautiful tribute to an individual who would be so proud of the staying power of this effort through Film Pittsburgh."

We are honored to share these films with you, and I'm looking forward to meeting you as the new Executive Director at my first JFilm Festival. Please feel free to reach out to me with your feedback at any time at shanna@filmpittsburgh.org.

See you at the movies,

Shanna Carrick

Executive Director, Film Pittsburgh



DO A MITZVAH
Donate to JFilm

Your support helps keep independent cinema alive in Pittsburgh.

*Visit [FilmPittsburgh.org](https://www.filmpittsburgh.org)/Donate today.
Thank you!*



PASSES

Combo Pass

Access to ALL In-Person and Virtual Screenings—\$400 value

\$150 Early Bird Combo Pass
by April 22

\$180 Regular Price Combo Pass

Virtual Films Pass

Access to ALL 7 Virtual Screenings—\$105 value

\$65 Early Bird Virtual Film Pass
by April 22

\$80 Regular Price Virtual Film Pass

SINGLE TICKETS

Opening Night

In-Person Screening of Ethan Bloom & B'Nai Mitzvah
Dessert Reception (April 30)

\$36 General Admission

Bagel Brunch

In-Person Screening of Once Upon My Mother & Mother's Day
Bagel Brunch with bagels provided by Balena Bagels (May 10)

\$25 General Admission

Single Tickets

In Person and/or Virtual Tickets

\$15 General Admission

\$10 Age 25 and under

with ID, in person, at door only, does not include
Opening Night or Bagel Brunch

\$5 Student

full-time with ID, in person, at door only, does not
include Opening Night or Bagel Brunch



GET TICKETS ONLINE AT
FilmPittsburgh.org



*Online sales remain open until showtime.
In the event of a sellout, an in-person wait list will be
started 30 minutes prior to showtime.*

VENUES

Row House Hollywood

APRIL 30 & MAY 10

1449 Potomac Ave
Dormont, PA 15216

Metered public parking is located all along Potomac Avenue. There is a public parking lot at Potomac & Epsy, as well as 2922 W. Liberty—or take the T and get off at Potomac Station.

The Lindsay Theater

MAY 4–7, MAY 9

418 Walnut St
Sewickley, PA 15143

Free parking is available after 5pm on weekdays, after 1pm on Saturdays, and all day on Sundays. Paid parking is available on the street or in several nearby lots.

INFORMATION

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 at Info@FilmPittsburgh.org.

Q&AS / FILM PANELS / FILM SCHMOOZES

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 the 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 May 1–10 **and are available to view for 48 hours after you begin watching until 11:59pm on May 10.**

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 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.

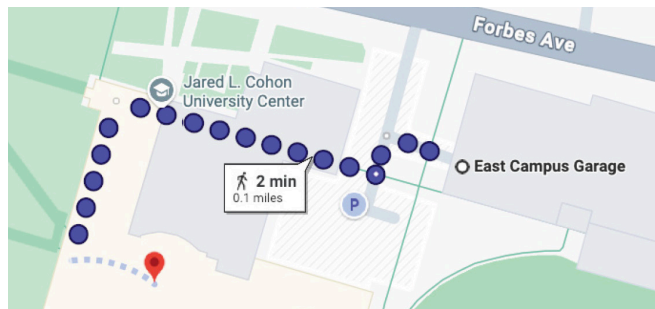
CMU's McConomy Auditorium

MAY 2–3

5034 Forbes Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

at Carnegie Mellon University inside the Cohon University Center

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



VOTING FOR AUDIENCE AWARDS

We announce Audience Awards at the end of the festival, so please rate each film after you watch it in person or virtually. Here's how to do it virtually: 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

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.

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!

Info@FilmPittsburgh.org
412-426-FILM (3456)

The fastest way to reach us is by email. You may also call us at the above number. Someone will return your call as quickly as possible, within 12 hours. Please do not call the venues directly.

CONTENT / RATINGS

Independent films are not rated and may contain disturbing language or images. All content is subject to change.

JFILM APRIL 30 – MAY 10

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10						

PLAYING VIRTUALLY

MAY 1–10 | Available in PA, WV, and OH

Ethan Bloom

Hold On to Your Music - A Mother's Legacy

Sabbath Queen

Validity

Virtual Shorts Block 1

Virtual Shorts Block 2

We Met at Grossinger's

VENUES

Row House Hollywood

April 30 & May 10

1449 Potomac Ave
Dormont, PA 15216

CMU's McConomy Auditorium

May 2–3


5034 Forbes Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

The Lindsay Theater

May 4–7, May 9

418 Walnut St
Sewickley, PA 15143

 ReelAbilities

 Shorts

 Pittsburgh Connection

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

THU

APRIL 30

OPENING NIGHT

7:30 PM

Ethan Bloom

Preceded by the short film Beshert
With an Opening Night party

- ◆ Row House Hollywood
- Dramedy, Coming-of-Age | 95 min



SAT

MAY 2

12:30 PM

Validity



Followed by a Filmmaker Talkback

- ◆ CMU's McConomy Auditorium
- Drama | 66 min

3:00 PM

The Soundman

- ◆ CMU's McConomy Auditorium
- Drama, Historical | 120 min

6:30 PM

Hold On to Your Music - A Mother's Legacy

Preceded by a piano performance by film
subject Mona Golabek, and followed by a Q&A

- ◆ CMU's McConomy Auditorium
- Documentary | 74 min

Shabbat Shalom!

**THERE ARE NO SCREENINGS
ON FRIDAYS FOR SHABBAT.**

*If you're looking for something to watch on
Fridays, we encourage you to take advantage of
our virtual selections.*



SUN
MAY 3

12:00 PM **Viewpoints: Current Events Shorts**



- ◆ CMU's McConomy Auditorium
- Animation, Documentary, Drama | 105 min

2:30 PM **Holding Liat**

Followed by a Film Schmooze

- ◆ CMU's McConomy Auditorium
- Documentary | 97 min

5:30 PM **Disposable Humanity**



Preceded by the short film *Extinguished Lives*
Followed by a Talkback

- ◆ CMU's McConomy Auditorium
- Documentary | 94 min

MON
MAY 4

7:00 PM **Vindicta**

- ◆ The Lindsay Theater
- Drama, Historical, Thriller | 120 min

TUE
MAY 5

7:00 PM **Cuz You're Ugly**

Preceded by the short film *Tshuva*

- ◆ The Lindsay Theater
- Dramey, Coming-of-Age | 82 min

WED
MAY 6

4:00 PM **Bliss**

- ◆ The Lindsay Theater
- Drama, Romance | 125 min

7:00 PM **Swedishkayt: YidLife Crisis in Stockholm**

Preceded by the short film *Shlof Gezunterhey*

- ◆ The Lindsay Theater
- Documentary, Comedy | 77 min

THU
MAY 7

7:00 PM **We Met at Grossinger's
Followed by a Film Schmooze**

- ◆ The Lindsay Theater
- Documentary | 103 min

SAT
MAY 9

12:30 PM **Comedy Shorts**



- ◆ The Lindsay Theater
- Comedy, Documentary | 93 min

3:30 PM **Lost in Territories**

Followed by a Film Schmooze

- ◆ The Lindsay Theater
- Comedy | 108 min

6:30 PM **The Sea**

Followed by a Film Schmooze

- ◆ The Lindsay Theater
- Drama | 93 min

SUN
MAY 10

CLOSING DAY

12:30 PM **Once Upon My Mother**
With a Mother's Day Bagel Brunch at 12:00 PM

- ◆ Row House Hollywood
- Dramey | 102 min

3:30 PM **Steal This Story, Please!**
Followed by a Filmmaker Talkback

- ◆ Row House Hollywood
- Documentary | 101 min

7:00 PM **Dead Language**

- ◆ Row House Hollywood
- Drama, Romance | 110 min

Also Playing Virtually

OPENING NIGHT



THU, APRIL 30 | 7:30 PM

Ethan Bloom

◆ Row House Hollywood
■ Dramedy, Coming-of-Age | 95 min

Thirteen-year-old Ethan is supposed to be preparing for his bar mitzvah. However, despite his Jewish upbringing, Ethan is convinced that his spiritual calling is with the Catholic church, where he secretly finds solace under the guidance of Father Diaz (Carlos Ponce). Through the wisdom of an unconventional rabbi (Rachelle Lefevre), the love of his complicated father (Joshua Malina), and his first romance with a cowboy-boot-wearing girl who can put him in a headlock, Ethan must confront his lies and grief to discover that faith isn't about choosing sides. ETHAN BLOOM paints a raw and authentic portrait of adolescence, exploring the struggles of an awkward yet lovable teenager navigating his search for meaning.

Director: Herschel Faber
2025, USA
English

Available for virtual viewing May 1–10

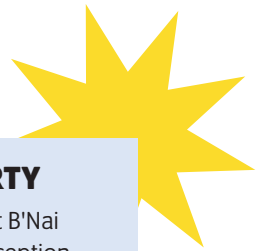
Official Selection: Miami Film Festival, Palm Springs Jewish Film Festival, San Diego International Jewish Film Festival

Preceded by:

Beshert

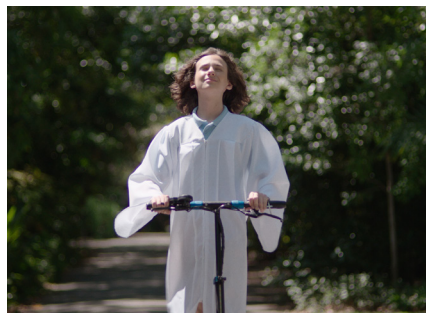
A grumpy old man and a reluctant bar mitzvah boy forge an unlikely yet profound friendship.

Director: Lewis Rose
2025, UK, 20 min
English



OPENING NIGHT PARTY

Join us for our Opening Night B'Nai Mitzvah-themed Dessert Reception after the film. Wear your vintage Bar and Bat Mitzvah shirts and hoodies to celebrate!



Also Playing Virtually



SAT, MAY 2 | 12:30 PM

Validity

- ◆ CMU's McConomy Auditorium
- Drama | 66 min

Presented with thanks to the City of Pittsburgh

In this Pittsburgh-shot drama, hypothermia researcher Dr. Sidney Randall discovers life-saving data gathered in Nazi death camp experiments, but she must argue for approval to get the medical establishment to validate her findings. Randall recruits a team, including a disgruntled bioethicist and an eager but naive translator, to help her navigate the cut-throat world of medical-ethical debate. Documenting the process are two student filmmakers who bear witness to both her personal journey and the ethical arguments her discoveries have spurred. Inspired by true events, VALIDITY bravely questions what happens when scientific progress tests the moral code.

WORLD PREMIERE

Directors: Randy Kovitz
2025, USA
English

Available for virtual viewing May 1–10

FOLLOWED BY A FILMMAKER TALKBACK

Stay after the screening for a Q&A with director Randy Kovitz and producer Kate Vargish to ask your questions about the film.



SAT, MAY 2 | 3:00 PM

The Soundman

- ◆ CMU's McConomy Auditorium
- Drama, Historical | 120 min

On the eve of the German invasion in 1940 Belgium, a tender attachment forms between 18-year-old Berre, a gifted young radio apprentice, and Elza, a luminous on-air performer seeking joy in uncertain times. Inside Brussels's famed Flagey Building, Berre rises from intern to sound engineer, crafting transportive live radio drama soundscapes that captivate Elza. As their fragile bond deepens amid air-raid sirens and rising antisemitism, the radio studio becomes a haven where imagination and escape push back the gathering darkness. Through lyrical visuals, sumptuous period detail, and breathtaking use of sound, this singular prewar tale delivers an immersive WWII-era drama unlike any other.

Director: Frank Van Passel
2026, Belgium/Denmark/Netherlands
Dutch with subtitles

Official Selection: Cleveland International Film Festival, Palm Springs International Film Festival, Atlanta Jewish Film Festival

“THE SOUNDMAN arrives as a rare and resonant experience, one that invites audiences not simply to watch, but to *listen*.”
– VALERIE MILANO, *THE HOLLYWOOD TIMES*

Also Playing Virtually



SAT, MAY 2 | 6:30PM

Hold On to Your Music - A Mother's Legacy

◆ CMU's McConomy Auditorium
■ Documentary | 74 min

Presented by Classrooms Without Borders and Teen Screen

In this deeply personal and profoundly universal documentary, based on the internationally acclaimed book and theatrical production, Grammy-nominated concert pianist Mona Golabek shares the extraordinary story of her mother, Lisa Jura, a child-prodigy pianist. In 1938, Lisa was one of 10,000 unaccompanied Jewish children rescued from Nazi-occupied Europe and brought to England on the Kindertransport. As antisemitic persecution engulfed Vienna, Lisa's father, reduced to penury like so many of his fellow Jews, miraculously won a Kindertransport ticket while gambling. Faced with an unthinkable decision, he and his wife had to choose which of their three daughters would be saved. They chose Lisa. Featuring interviews of towering Jewish scholars and spanning three generations, this life-affirming film stands as a luminous testament to survival, artistry, and the enduring strength of a mother's love.

Directors: Josh Aronson and Adam R. Wood
2025, USA
English

Available for virtual viewing May 1-10

PRECEDED BY A PIANO PERFORMANCE

Film subject Mona Golabek will be opening the screening with a brief piano performance, and following the film she will be present for a Q&A.

SUN, MAY 3 | 12:00 PM

Viewpoints: Current Events Shorts



◆ CMU's McConomy Auditorium
■ Animation, Documentary, Drama | 105 min

Not My Weekend

Director: Rona Segal | 2025, Israel, 18 min

When a divorced woman gets an invitation to a festival, she must scramble to find a babysitter.

Home Base

Director: Amit Kra | 2025, Israel, 17 min

A group of young Israeli reservists are called up on October 7th under emergency orders.

Children No More: "Were and Are Gone"

Director: Hilla Medalia | 2025, Israel, 30 min

In this Oscar-nominated short, Israeli peace activists hold silent vigils in Tel Aviv for the children of Gaza.

Gyugu

Directors: Chen Heifetz and Jordan Barr | 2025, Israel, 7 min

This animated documentary tells the story of Guy Gilboa Dalal, who was kidnapped by Hamas for over 2 years.

Scenes From the Divide

Director: Alison Klayman | 2026, USA, 33 min

In the lead-up to Zohran Mamdani's election as mayor of New York City, a fierce battle among American Jews over identity, history, and responsibility is revealed.





SUN, MAY 3 | 2:30 PM

Holding Liat

- ◆ CMU's McConomy Auditorium
- Documentary | 97 min

On the morning of October 7, 2023, Israeli-American Liat Atzili and her husband Aviv are at home when Hamas attacks their kibbutz. By nightfall, Liat and Aviv are captives in Gaza along with 250 other people—12 of whom, like Liat, are American citizens. Caught between international diplomacy and a rapidly escalating war, their family must face their own uncertainty and conflicting political perspectives in the pursuit of Liat and Aviv's release. Through the intimate lens of a family's experience, HOLDING LIAT poses complex questions of identity across generations as the family is thrust into the epicenter of a global conflict rapidly unfolding in real time.

Director: Brandon Kramer
2025, USA
English

Official Selection: Tribeca

Shortlisted: Best Documentary—Academy Awards

Winner: Best Documentary—Berlin Film Festival

“Offering a rare look at all the backdoor lobbying, moral questioning and endless waiting involved in an affair that lasted for nearly two months, director Brandon Kramer does an impressive job revealing the personal and geopolitical aspects of a heartbreaking true story.”

— JORDAN MINTZER, *THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER*

FOLLOWED BY A FILM SCHMOOZE

A Film Schmooze is a casual post-film discussion sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Jewish Studies Program.

SUN, MAY 3 | 5:30 PM

Disposable Humanity

- ◆ CMU's McConomy Auditorium
- Documentary | 94 min

A ReelAbilities Film
Co-presented with Achieva & the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh

Tracing the eugenicist roots of Nazi Germany's genocide, DISPOSABLE HUMANITY confronts the little-known history of the Aktion T4 program, a state-sanctioned campaign that led to the murder of more than 300,000 disabled people between 1939 and 1941. Carried out by physicians under the guise of “mercy killings,” T4 not only devastated lives but also laid the technological and bureaucratic groundwork for the Nazi death camps. Spanning over two decades of research and filmmaking, director Cameron S. Mitchell and his collaborators weave together archival records, testimony from descendants, and insights from historians, disability scholars, and activists to examine why this atrocity remained absent from public memory for so long. At once intimate and urgent, the film offers a timely reminder of how fascism exploits prevailing ideas about health, purity, and human worth.

Director: Cameron S. Mitchell
2025, USA
English

Preceded by:

Extinguished Lives

When a young couple tries to escape the Nazis, they discover that the most chilling threat may come from their own neighbors.

Director: Roberta Grossman
2025, Lithuania/USA, 16 min
English, Lithuanian, Yiddish with subtitles

FOLLOWED BY A TALKBACK



MON, MAY 4 | 7:00 PM

Vindicta

◆ The Lindsay Theater

■ Drama, Historical, Thriller | 120 min

19-year-old Hannah's world shatters when her parents are murdered in front of her. After fleeing, she seeks refuge with family friends before becoming the embodiment of rage and revenge towards those responsible for destroying her life. Amidst her quest, a fleeting and unexpected connection with a young Nazi officer reveals the fragile complexities of human nature, yet Hannah remains resolute in her singular pursuit of justice at any cost. Inspired by extraordinary true accounts of women who resisted the Nazi regime, VINDICTA transcends the conventions of a revenge drama to probe the moral ambiguities of war and illuminate the untold bravery of women whose clandestine acts of resistance helped alter the course of history.

Director: Dominik Sedlar
2025, Croatia/UK/USA
English

Official Selection: Dances With Films Opening Night, Miami Jewish Film Festival

“VINDICTA cuts open those scars and pours salt on them, but then delivers sublime catharsis. Sedlar shows us one way to fight.”

—BRADLEY GIBSON, *FILM THREAT*

TUE, MAY 5 | 7:00 PM

Cuz You're Ugly

◆ The Lindsay Theater

■ Dramey, Coming-of-Age | 82 min

In this intimate and compelling coming-of-age drama, trainee naval officer Avigail (Riki Reif Sinai) returns from service to her cramped apartment with a dysfunctional mother and naïve younger sister. On a mission to lose her virginity, Avigail's plan is upended when her sister announces that she is pregnant. Nominated for seven Israeli Academy Awards, CUZ YOU'RE UGLY tackles the internal battle to find beauty within yourself whilst existing in a larger body and in a social media-dominated age. Riki Reif Sinai gives a brave and bold performance as the spiky yet insecure Avigail, who is constantly fighting for her family, for her wants, and for a place in a world that makes her feel too small and too big at the same time.

Director: Erez Tadmor
2025, Canada/Israel
Hebrew with subtitles

Winner: Best Performance—Jerusalem Film Festival 2025

Preceded by:

Tshuva

A late-night encounter between a grieving man and a trans woman ignites a mind-altering journey.

Director: Afek Testa Launer
2024, Israel, 23 min
Hebrew with subtitles



WED, MAY 6 | 4:00 PM

Bliss

◆ The Lindsay Theater
■ Drama, Romance | 125 min

Sassi (Sasson Gabai) is more than 20 years older than his wife Effi (Asi Levi). Surgery has left him seeking treatment for impotence, but Effi insists she's content with their emotional intimacy. But the couple's equilibrium is threatened by the presence of two young men who enter their lives. Their teenage grandson, Omri, returns from living with his father in Europe, at loose ends and clearly in need of guidance. Then a young patient turns up at the swimming pool where Effi conducts therapy sessions to reopen old wounds. With Israeli Academy Award-nominated lead performances, BLISS is a meditative examination of love, aging, and family obligations.

Director: Shemi Zarhin
2024, Israel
Hebrew with subtitles

Winner: Audience Award—San Francisco Jewish Film Festival,
Paris Israeli Film Festival

Official Selection: Toronto International Film Festival

“BLISS is a profound account of what it is to continue the hard work of living and loving in the wake of illness, disappointment and missteps — which is to say, of living with humanity.”

—DAN FRIEDMAN, THE FORWARD



WED, MAY 6 | 7:00 PM

Swedishkayt: YidLife Crisis in Stockholm

◆ The Lindsay Theater
■ Comedy, Documentary | 77 min

Get ready to laugh and kvell with self-proclaimed international Yiddish-ish icons YidLife Crisis—comedy duo Eli Batalion and Jamie Elman—as they bravely step onto Swedish soil to unearth a hidden treasure trove of Jewish culture. From the moment they arrive in Stockholm, our heroes prepare for a big live show while unraveling the little-known history of Sweden's Jewish community. Along the way, they dive into a Yiddish cultural revival that's as unexpected as it is joyous. With their unique blend of humor and heart, Eli and Jamie remind us that sometimes the most exciting connections pop up where you least expect them, and that Jewish joy is truly universal.

Director: Erez Tadmor
2022, Israel
Hebrew and Yiddish with subtitles

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

Preceded by:

Shlof Gezunterheyt

An immigrant mother and son find comfort in Yiddish expressions shared at bedtime.

Director: Mike Fajgman
2025, Australia, 7 min
English, Yiddish with subtitles

Also Playing Virtually



THU, MAY 7 | 7:00 PM

We Met at Grossinger's

- ◆ The Lindsay Theater
- Documentary | 103 min

WE MET AT GROSSINGER'S is a joyfully nostalgic journey through the Jewish Catskills—once known as the Borscht Belt—reviving the iconic resort that inspired Dirty Dancing and defined an era of Jewish American life. Built and run by three generations of trailblazing women, Grossinger's Resort and Hotel stood at the center of a world Jews built for themselves after being shut out of America's mainstream resorts and clubs. It became far more than a vacation destination—it was a sanctuary of identity, joy, and reinvention. Here, amid the laughter of comics, the brilliance of athletes, and the grace of guests like Jackie Robinson, Eddie Fisher, and Eleanor Roosevelt, Jewish Americans and other marginalized communities found a stage to redefine what it meant to be accepted, celebrated, and free.

Director: Paula Eislet
2026, USA
English

Available for virtual viewing May 1–10

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

FOLLOWED BY A FILM SCHMOOZE

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SAT, MAY 9 | 12:30 PM

Comedy Shorts



- ◆ The Lindsay Theater
- Comedy, Documentary, Drama | 93 min

Unraveled

Director: Yale Fried | 2025, USA, 14 min

Simon's recurring nightmares about dropping the Torah threaten to derail his bar mitzvah.

Being Dead Should Be Easy

Directors: Claire Harris Matson and Drew Brandon Jones | 2025, USA, 14 min

A millennial woman learns that there's no room left for her in the family mausoleum.

The Wall

Director: Dovi Rozenberg | 2025, Israel, 13 min

IDF soldiers must jump over "the wall" to pass combat training, but some just cannot do it.

Navah Has Thoughts

Director: Alexandra Zahav | 2025, USA, 24 min

Navah, a perpetual innocent in her 30s, is guided into misadventures by a mysterious voice.

We The People

Director: Shmuel Elmaleh | 2025, Israel, 15 min

An American expat takes his family camping on Israeli Independence Day.

Catalogue of Noses

Director: Josie Andrews | 2025, USA, 13 min

On the day of her scheduled nose job, a teen actor faces the weight of her cultural identity.



SAT, MAY 9 | 3:30 PM

Lost in Territories

- ◆ The Lindsay Theater
- Comedy | 108 min


Set in the charged landscape of the West Bank, LOST IN TERRITORIES offers a darkly comic and deeply human glimpse at life beyond the headlines. In five interwoven stories involving soldiers, marijuana, terror groups, fences, knives, dancers, guns, rabbis, and imams, Jews and Arabs find themselves caught in chaotic situations that reveal just how much they have in common. This ensemble film featuring a cast of acclaimed Israeli actors from FAUDA, THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF JERUSALEM, and SHTISEL finds moments of absurdity and connection where division seems absolute.

Director: Nadav Shlomo Giladi
2026, France/Israel
Arabic, Hebrew with subtitles

*Official Selection: Miami Jewish Film Festival,
 San Diego International Film Festival*

FOLLOWED BY A FILM SCHMOOZE

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SAT, MAY 9 | 6:30 PM

The Sea

- ◆ The Lindsay Theater
- Drama | 93 min


Israel's official entry to the Academy Awards for Best International Feature Film and nominated for a record 13 Israeli Academy Awards, notably winning Best Film and Best Actor, THE SEA tells the story of Khaled, a 12-year-old boy from a Palestinian village, who is granted the rare chance to see the sea for the first time on a school trip. But when his group reaches a military checkpoint, the soldiers declare his permit invalid and send him home. Undeterred, Khaled embarks on an uncertain journey to the sea, navigating a world he barely knows and a language he does not speak, propelled by a blend of curiosity, hope, and stubborn determination. Simple in its construction yet profoundly rich in human insight and kindness, THE SEA touches hearts while illuminating the simplest yet most profound truths of our shared existence.

Director: Shai Carmeli-Pollak
2025, Israel
Arabic, Hebrew with subtitles

Winner: Best Picture—Israeli Academy Awards, Best International Feature Film—37th Palm Springs International Film Festival

FOLLOWED BY A FILM SCHMOOZE

A Film Schmooze is a casual post-film discussion sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Jewish Studies Program.





SUN, MAY 10 | 12:30 PM

Once Upon My Mother

- ◆ Row House Hollywood
- Dramedy | 102 min

In this heartwarming, upbeat Sephardic family saga set in the 1960s, Esther Perez—a spirited Moroccan-Jewish immigrant raising six children in the Parisian suburbs—will do anything to give her youngest son the best possible life despite his physical setbacks. Born with a clubfoot, little Roland is unable to walk, yet his mother (portrayed by Leila Bekhti, in a flamboyant, tour-de-force performance) is undeterred, even as her limitless devotion grows increasingly complicated. This colorful, energetic adaptation of an autobiographical novel by French writer and radio personality Roland Perez swept the French box office and features the nostalgic sounds of French pop classics—including iconic songs by Jewish music legend Sylvie Vartan, who plays herself in the film. ONCE UPON MY MOTHER is a universal celebration of the extraordinary lengths to which parents will go for their children.

Director: Ken Scott
2025, France
French with subtitles

Winner: Audience Choice Award for Best Narrative Feature—San Diego International Jewish Film Festival (2026), Audience Award for Best Narrative—Miami Jewish Film Festival (2026), Audience Choice Award—Toronto Jewish Film Festival (2025)

MOTHER'S DAY BAGEL BRUNCH

30 minutes before the film screening, join us for a Mother's Day Bagel Brunch at 12:00 PM with bagels provided by Balena Bagels! Special ticket price applies.



SUN, MAY 10 | 3:30 PM

Steal This Story, Please!

- ◆ Row House Hollywood
- Documentary | 101 min

Co-presented with Public Source

Fiercely independent journalist Amy Goodman has spent three decades holding the powerful to account, reporting from conflict zones and the Democracy Now! Newsroom. In STEAL THIS STORY, PLEASE!, Oscar-nominated filmmakers Carl Deal and Tia Lessin take us behind the scenes, from Amy's upbringing as the wisecracking granddaughter of an Orthodox rabbi to the frontlines of the monumental events she has covered over the years. Premiered at DC/DOX 2025, the documentary highlights journalism's power—and peril—in an era of corporate control and political attacks on truth. Amy and her team at Democracy Now! have built a grassroots news broadcast that brings fresh perspectives to the airwaves, proving that in an increasingly profit-driven, consolidated media landscape, independent reporting might just be the thing that saves us.

Directors: Carl Deal and Tia Lessin
2026, USA
English

Official Selection: 2025 Telluride Film Festival, DOC NYC (Centerpiece), DC/DOX (Opening Night)

Winner: Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature at Palm Springs IFF

FOLLOWED BY A FILMMAKER TALKBACK

Stay after the screening for a talkback with Public Source's Stephanie Strasburg and film producer Karen Ranucci.



SUN, MAY 10 | 7:00 PM

Dead Language

◆ Row House Hollywood
■ Drama, Romance | 110 min

A chance encounter leads Aya to pick up a stranger at the airport—stirring an unexpected intimacy that unsettles her carefully ordered life and awakening a longing she neither fully understands nor knows how to fulfill. Nominated for 12 Israeli Academy Awards, DEAD LANGUAGE is a tender and quietly arresting romantic portrait of yearning, connection, and the fragile spaces between hope and desire. At the film's center is Sarah Adler, whose luminous performance as Aya allows us to inhabit her inner life with rare immediacy as she searches for something meaningful beyond the familiar. With profound emotional clarity, DEAD LANGUAGE emerges as a stirring meditation on intimacy, chance, and the ache of longing.

Directors: Oded Binnun and Mihal Brezis
2025, Israel
Hebrew with subtitles

Official Selection: Toronto International Film Festival, Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival, Jerusalem Film Festival

Strobe warning: This film may potentially trigger seizures for people with photosensitive epilepsy.



MAY 1–10

Sabbath Queen

◆ Virtual
■ Documentary, LGBTQ+ | 105 min

Co-presented with Reel Q

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. 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.

Director: Sandi DuBowski
2024, USA
English, Hebrew, Yiddish with subtitles

Winner: Best Documentary—UK Jewish Film Festival 2024
Official Selection: Tribeca, Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival

“What does it mean to be a Jew? Who gets to be a Jew? ... Ultimately, SABBATH QUEEN isn't interested in the headline-grabbing macro conflicts that embroil Jews globally, but the internal culture wars within Judaism itself ... It is one of the best films I've seen this year.”

— ROBYN BAHR, *THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER*



MAY 1–10

Virtual Shorts Block 1



◆ Virtual

■ Animation, Documentary, Drama | 69 min

Premiere

Director: Omer Ben David | 2024, Israel, 17 min

At a prestigious festival, a filmmaker competes against his girlfriend's ex—a big-shot director.

That's How You Make a Torah

Director: Lauren Greenhall | 2025, USA, 11 min

The first known female Torah scribes in history share how they came to this ancient practice that was once closed off to them.

Shlof Gezunterheytt

Director: Mike Fajgman | 2025, Australia, 7 min

An immigrant mother and son find comfort in Yiddish expressions shared at bedtime.

No Witches in the Valley

Director: Ayala Sharot | 2025, Israel, 13 min

This personal animated film explores childhood on a kibbutz and breaking the cycle of trauma.

Dalia's Tea Casts a Shadow on Mount Fuji

Director: Oren Gerner | 2025, Israel, 21 min

In this Israeli Academy Award winner, a widowed retiree transforms a simple kitchen gift into a surprising spark of spirit.



MAY 1–10

Virtual Shorts Block 2



◆ Virtual

■ Animation, Documentary, Drama | 71 min

The Whistle

Director: Greg Franklin | 2025, USA, 7 min

This animated true story is a testament to the power of empathy, even in the darkest times.

Love Letter to My Brother

Director: Rotem Avidani | 2025, Israel, 17 min

18-year-old Roni finds herself at odds with her twin brother, who is embracing a life that has no place for her.

Maintenance

Director: Rotem Avidani | 2025, Israel, 12 min

Garage owner Michal is a one-woman powerhouse—except when it comes to love.

Extinguished Lives

Director: Roberta Grossman | 2025, Lithuania/USA, 16 min

When a young couple tries to escape the Nazis, they discover that the most chilling threat may come from their own neighbors.

Do You Feel Like Dancing?

Director: Tahel Tsvik | 2025, Israel, 19 min

An intimate scene in an upcoming play tests a young couple's relationship.

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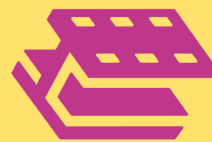
—Wisdom of Ben Sira

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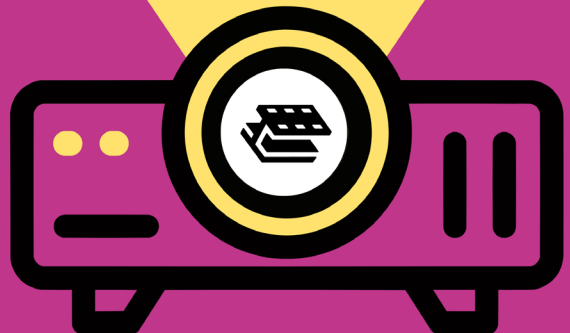
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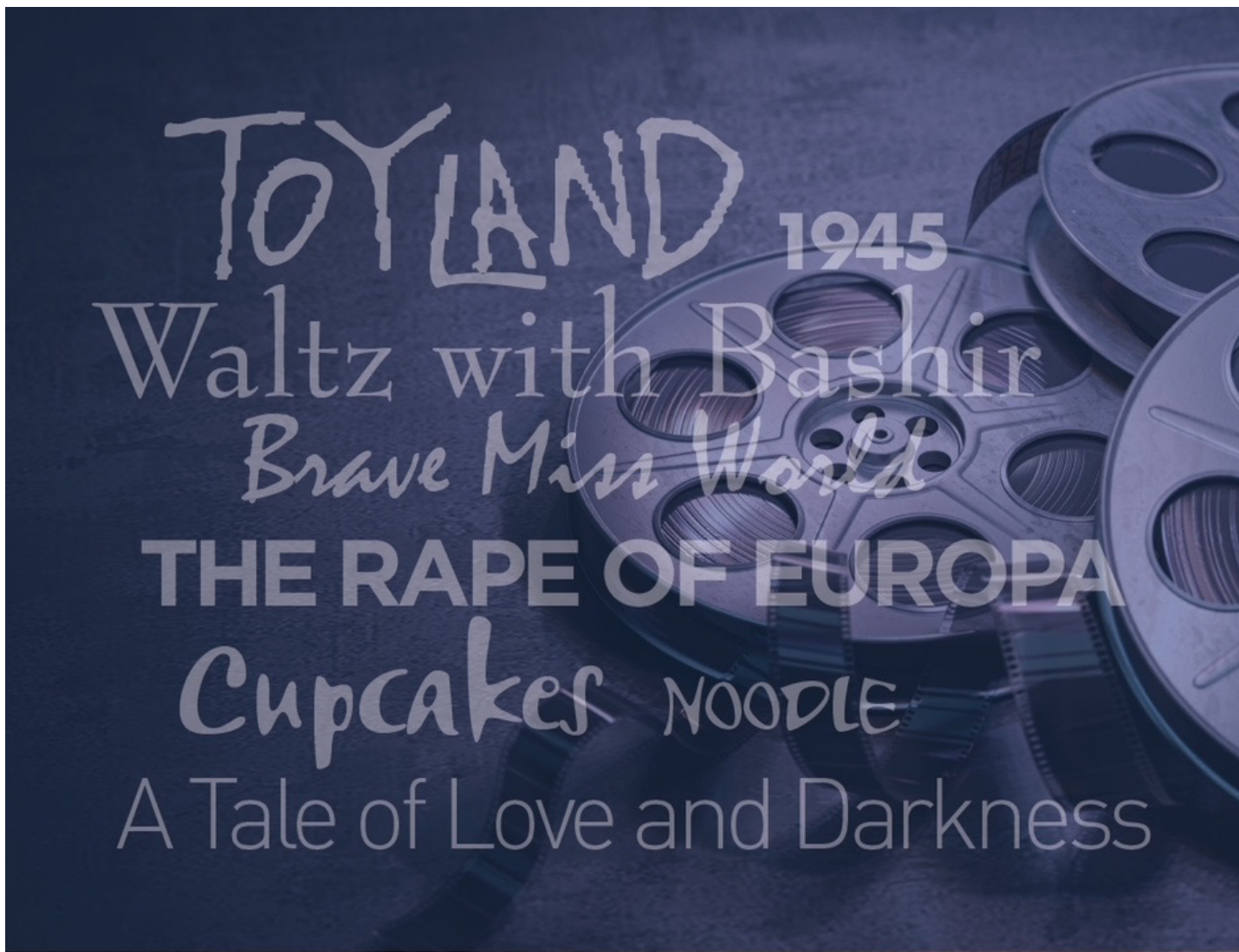
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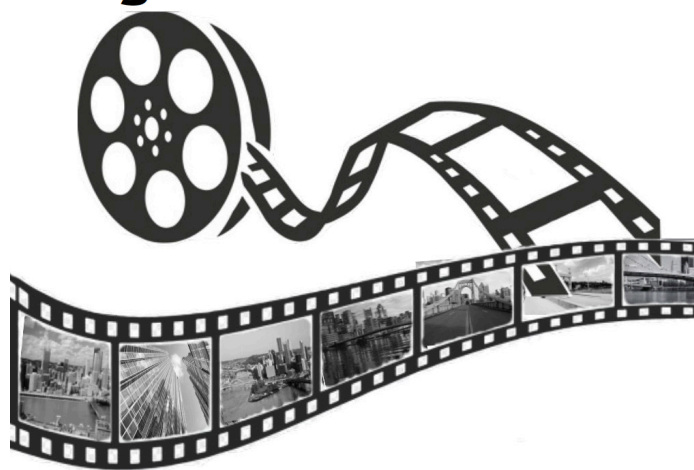


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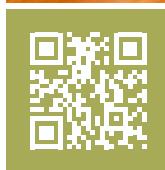
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