NJJFF
sponsored
by CARE ONE
TRUST IN OUR CARE

19TH ANNUAL J MetroWest new jersey jewish film festival

MARCH 27 – APRIL 7, 2019

TICKET INFORMATION

Online

jccmetrowest.org/njjff
Your printed receipt will serve as your ticket.

In Person

Visit the Box Office in the Gaelen Lobby, adjacent to the Maurice Levin Theater on the first floor of JCC MetroWest, Mondays and Thursdays, February 25–March 25, 10:00am–12:00pm.

Boxofficetickets.com fees apply.

Ticket Prices

General Seating: $13
Student, Senior, Matinee (before 5:00pm): $11

At the Door

Tickets may be purchased at the theater venue starting 45 minutes prior to screening, subject to availability.
All-Festival Pass: $325 per person
Contact sdiamond@jccmetrowest.org

Advanced purchase is strongly encouraged, as films often sell out. Box office ticket fees apply.

SEATING POLICY

Sponsor seating will begin 30 minutes prior to all screenings. General admission ticket holders will be admitted 20 minutes prior to all screenings. In the event of a sell-out, a waiting list will be created.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Films are not rated. Parental discretion is strongly advised. Films designated "Adult Content" may contain sexual content, explicit language and/or violence. The NJJFF is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets. Sorry, no refunds or exchanges. Festival programs are subject to change/cancellation without prior notice. For film trailers and the most up-to-date information about festival events, visit our website or call the Film Festival hotline at 973-530-3417.

ALL FOREIGN FILMS HAVE ENGLISH SUBTITLES.

Like us at Facebook.com/NJJFF
Visit us at jccmetrowest.org/njjff

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JCC MetroWest | THE GAELEN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

JCC MetroWest is a beneficiary agency of Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ.
We strive to ensure access and meaningful participation by all members of the community.

This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 27

Opening Night

7:00pm Promise at Dawn p4
Followed by a Dessert Reception

THURSDAY • MARCH 28

Double Feature

11:30am How to Swim p5
In Her Footsteps p5

7:30pm The Tobacconist p6
Bow-Tie Cinema, South Orange*

FRIDAY • MARCH 29

11:30am The Interpreter p7
Post-screening discussion

SATURDAY • MARCH 30

Double Feature

9:00pm Travelogue Tel Aviv p8
The Unorthodox p8

SUNDAY • MARCH 31

1:00pm Stockholm p9

7:00pm Redemption
Post-screening discussion p10

MONDAY • APRIL 1

11:30am Scaffolding
Post-screening discussion p11

7:30pm Footsteps of My Father p12
Post-screening discussion
College of Saint Elizabeth**

7:30pm Simon & Théodore p13

TUESDAY • APRIL 2

11:30am The Syrian Patient p14
Post-screening discussion

7:30pm Wajib p15

WEDNESDAY • APRIL 3

Double Feature

12:30pm Death Metal Grandma p16
The Mamboniks p16

7:30pm Who Will Write Our History? p17
Post-screening discussion

THURSDAY • APRIL 4

11:30am Working Woman p18
Post-screening discussion

7:30pm You Only Die Twice
Post-screening discussion p19

FRIDAY • APRIL 5

11:30am Golda's Balcony, The Film p20
Post-screening discussion

SATURDAY • APRIL 6

Double Feature

9:00pm Boxes p21
Echo p21

SUNDAY • APRIL 7

11:00am Back to Berlin p22

2:00pm Family in Transition
Post-screening discussion p23

Closing Night

Double Feature

7:00pm The Outer Circle p24
The Other Story p24
Followed by a Dessert Reception

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

All films screened at JCC MetroWest, West Orange unless noted otherwise. See below for alternate screening locations.

* Bow-Tie Cinema, SOPAC
1 Sopac Way, South Orange

** Dolan Performance Hall
College of Saint Elizabeth
2 Convent Road, Morristown

Check website for additional guest speakers and programs.

OPENING NIGHT

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 27 • 7:00PM

JCC MetroWest, West Orange

Dessert reception to follow

Promise at Dawn

Director: Eric Barbier
2017, 131 minutes
France / French
Literary adaptation, Memoir
ADULT CONTENT, NUDITY

This adaptation of the epic memoir by celebrated French novelist Romain Gary — a Lithuanian Jew born in Vilna in 1914 who became a diplomat, film director, and war hero — tells the story of a man who was driven to greatness and of his profound love for his mother that was his very life. Director Eric Barbier offers a sweeping narrative that takes us from Gary's childhood in Poland, to his years as a student in Paris, and his training as a pilot during World War II. Starring Charlotte Gainsbourg (*The Tree, Melancholia*) and Pierre Niney (*Yves Saint Laurent*).

Winner—Audience Award, Boston Jewish Film Festival 2018

Winner—Audience Special Prize, COLCOA French Film Festival, 2018

Nominated for 4 César Awards (including Best Actress and Best Adapted Screenplay)

This film is brought to you by

Joni & Alan Cohen

How to Swim

Director: Noa Gusakov
2018, 15 minutes
Israel / Hebrew
Motherhood, Black Comedy

Abigail is heavily pregnant and terrified about the imminent birth. While waiting on line in the doctor's office, she spots an intriguing woman and pretends to be a friend from her past. The two have one adventurous afternoon, with some painful truths emerging.

Audience Choice Award, XChange Film Festival 2018

In Her Footsteps

Director: Rana Abu-Fraiha
2017, 70 minutes
Israel / Hebrew, Arabic
Israeli-Arab relations

To find a better life for their family, the filmmaker's parents left their house in the Bedouin village of Tal-a-Sabeh and moved to Omer, a Jewish town. After 10 years of struggling with breast cancer, her mother has one wish: to be buried in Omer, but the town has never dealt with the issue of burying its Muslim residents.

Winner—Best Feature Film, Israeli Documentary Filmmakers Forum 2018

Winner—Van Leer Award for Best Director of a Documentary, Jerusalem Film Festival 2018

These films are brought to you by

Andrea & Bryan Bier

THURSDAY • MARCH 28 • 7:30PM

Bow-Tie Cinema, South Orange

The Tobacconist

Director: Nikolaus Leytner
2018, 108 minutes
Germany / German
Literary adaptation, History, Friendship
ADULT CONTENT, NUDITY

Based on the international bestseller by Robert Seethaler, this heart-breaking film tells the story of 17-year-old Franz, who journeys to Vienna to apprentice at a tobacco shop. There he meets Sigmund Freud, a regular customer, and the two very different men form a singular friendship. When Franz falls in love with the music-hall dancer Anezka, he seeks advice from the renowned psychoanalyst (who admits that to him, the female sex is as big a mystery as it is to Franz). With the Nazis' arrival in Vienna, Franz, Freud, and Anezka are swept into the maelstrom of events.

This film is brought to you by

investorsFoundation

The Interpreter

Director: Martin Šulík
2018, 114 minutes
Slovakia, Czech Republic, Austria / German, Slovakian
History, Drama-Comedy

With both tragic and comic overtones, the film tells of octogenarian Ali Ungar, who sets out to take revenge on the SS officer who executed his parents in Slovakia. Instead he finds the Nazi's 70-year-old son, Georg, who had avoided his father all his life and offers to be Ali's interpreter. The two men embark on a bittersweet journey to meet surviving witnesses of the wartime tragedy, on the way discovering their own identity.

Official Entry (Slovakia)—
Best Foreign Language Film, 2019 Academy Awards

Winner—Film Critics Circle Award,
San Francisco Jewish Film Festival 2018

Official Selection, Berlin International Film Festival 2018

FRIDAY • MARCH 29 • 11:30AM

JCC MetroWest, West Orange

Post-screening discussion

This film is brought to you by

Myrna & Lenny Comerchero

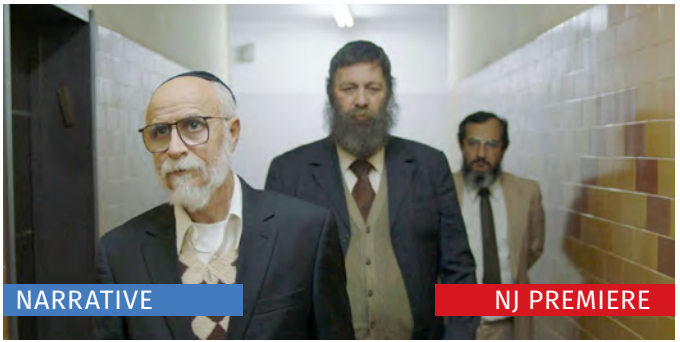
Marilyn & Monroe Markovitz

Travelogue Tel Aviv

Director: Samuel Patthey
2017, 6 minutes
Switzerland / (No dialogue)
Israel, Travel, Student film

A young art student from Switzerland arrives for six months in Tel Aviv, documenting his experiences in an animated journal. His sensitive drawings capture not only the local color and characters, but the city's personality and ever-changing atmosphere.

Winner—Best Student Film, Manchester Animation Festival 2018



The Unorthodox

Director: Eliran Malka
2018, 94 minutes
Israel / Hebrew
True story, History, Religion, Politics

Inspired by the formation story of Israel's Shas party, this "comic drama" covers events that reshaped Israeli society and continue to resonate today. It marks a return to the screen for lead actor Shuli Rand—star of *Ushpizin*—who plays Yaakov Cohen, a man who seeks change and ends up transforming an entire country.

Jerusalem International Film Festival, Israel, Opening Night Film, 2018

Goa International Film Festival, Official Selection, 2018

These films are brought to you by

WILF FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

Community Partner

Congregation Etz Chaim

Stockholm

Director: Daniel Syrkin
2018, 155 minutes
Israel / Hebrew
Comedy, Life Experiences

Just days before the laureates are announced, a leading contender for the Nobel Prize in Economics is found dead in his bed. His four closest friends decide to keep him "alive" a bit longer for the one thing he wanted more than anything. Fluctuating between broad comedy and sharp character drama, *Stockholm* explores lifelong bonds formed among friends and the secrets intertwined inside of them, an endearing portrait of comradeship in the twilight years.

SUNDAY • MARCH 31 • 1:00PM

JCC MetroWest, West Orange

Community Partner

Temple Sinai Renaissance Group

This film is brought to you by

RRBB ASSET MANAGEMENT LLC

SUNDAY • MARCH 31 • 7:00PM

JCC MetroWest, West Orange

Post-screening discussion

Redemption

Directors: Joseph Madmony & Boaz Yehonatan Yacov
2018, 104 minutes
Israel / Hebrew
Religion, Family, Music, Drama

Menachem, a former frontman for a rock band, is now religious and the father of a six-year-old who has been diagnosed with cancer. Desperate to find a way to fund the expensive treatments, he reunites his band for one last tour. The quest to save his daughter exposes old wounds and leads him to understand that only a new connection to his past and to his music can pave the way to his own redemption.

Winner—Best Actor (Moshe Folkenflik) and Ecumenical Jury Prize, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2018

Winner—Audience Favorite Award, Leah Award for Jewish Heritage Van Leer Award for Music, Jerusalem Film Festival 2018

Official Selection—Toronto International Film Festival 2018

This film is brought to you by

Deborah & Wayne Zuckerman

Community Partner

Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel

Scaffolding

Director: Matan Yair
2017, 90 minutes
Israel, Poland / Hebrew
Family, Coming of Age, Special Needs

17-year-old Asher has always been a troublemaker at school. He can't concentrate in class, and he is driven by large doses of rage and violence. Yet, he is also endowed with a considerable amount of charm and street wisdom. While his strict father sees him as a natural successor to the family's scaffolding business, Asher finds a different kind of role model in his sensitive literature teacher and forges a special connection with him. Torn between two worlds, Asher strives to find a new life and a new identity.

Critics Jury's Prize Black Movie, International Independent Film Festival in Geneva, 2018

Best Actor, Montreal Israeli Film Festival, 2018

Best Israeli Feature Film and Best Actor, Jerusalem Film Festival, 2017

Best Supporting Actor, Israeli Academy Awards, 2017

Best Debut Feature Award at UK Jewish Film Festival, 2017

Best Director, Warsaw Jewish Film Festival, 2017

MONDAY • APRIL 1 • 11:30AM

JCC MetroWest, West Orange

Post-screening discussion

This film is brought to you by

KESSLER FOUNDATION
Changing the lives of people with disabilities

ReelAbilities FILM FESTIVAL NEW JERSEY

MONDAY • APRIL 1 • 7:30PM

College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown

Post-screening discussion

FREE SCREENING

Footsteps of My Father

Director: Paul Allman
2018, 38 minutes
USA / English
History, World War II, Family, Holocaust

Made by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, this film recounts the courageous acts of Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds, who was captured by the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge. As the highest-ranking officer in the Stalag IXA POW camp, Edmonds was ordered to identify the Jewish soldiers in order to separate them from the other prisoners. Edmonds refused, responding, "We are all Jews here," thereby saving the lives of the 200 Jewish soldiers among them. The film, told through the lens of his son, Pastor Chris Edmonds, is narrated by Ted Koppel.

Award of Excellence Special Mention by The Best Shorts Film Competition 2018

2nd Place Documentary Short Film Award, KNOX Film Festival 2018

Submitted for an Academy Award in the Best Documentary Short Subject category, 2019

Community Partner

College of Saint Elizabeth Center
for Holocaust and Genocide Education

Simon & Théodore

Director: Mikael Buch
2018, 84 minutes
France / French
Comedy-drama, Family

In this endearing comedy-drama, two male misfits connect under the pressure of each one's family circumstances and support each other. Simon's wife, a rabbi, is about to give birth to their child. But how can this unusual young man take care of his baby when he can't take care of himself? His encounter with Théodore, a cantankerous teen, will seriously test his self-respect and resolve as the two men set out on a wild and woolly quest through Paris. The power of compassion, love of family and inner strength combine to help these unconventional characters finally come to terms with their challenging lives.

MONDAY • APRIL 1 • 7:30PM

JCC MetroWest, West Orange

Community Partner

Temple B'nai Abraham

This film is brought to you by

Fani & Alan Weissman

TUESDAY • APRIL 2 • 11:30AM

JCC MetroWest, West Orange

Post-screening discussion

The Syrian Patient

Director: Racheli Schwartz
2017, 61 minutes
Israel / Hebrew, Arabic
Israeli-Arab relations, War, Humanity

As war rages on in Syria, wounded soldiers and civilians, many unconscious, are secretly brought over the border to Israeli hospitals. Many of the Syrians are terrified when they awaken, certain they are in enemy hands. But the patients and doctors forge deep relationships, as the suffering Syrians benefit from Israel's world-renowned medical care.

This film is brought to you by

Sharon & Stephen Seiden

The Russell Berrie Foundation
Making A Difference

Community Partner

Hadassah Northern New Jersey

Wajib

Director: Annemarie Jacir
2017, 97 minutes
Palestinian Territories / Arabic
Comedy-Drama, Israel-Arab Relations, Family

Over the course of one day in Nazareth, Abu and his son Shadi (played by real-life father and son Mohammad and Saleh Bakri) hand-deliver invitations for the wedding of Abu's daughter (including to two Jewish friends of Abu's, whom Shadi suspects of being Israel spies). Through their bickering and reminiscing, they reveal layers of their troubled relationship and the generational gaps within Arab-Israeli society.

Winner—Best Muhr Fiction Feature—Best Actors Mohammad Bakri & Saleh Bakri, Dubai International Film Festival 2017

Audience Choice Award, Florence Middle East Festival 2018

Best Film, Casablanca Film Festival 2018

TUESDAY • APRIL 2 • 7:30PM

JCC MetroWest, West Orange

This film is brought to you by

Ellen & Donald Legow

Sue Z. Rudd

Death Metal Grandma

Director: Leah Galant
2018, 15 minutes
USA / English
Biography, Music, Survivor

97-year-old Holocaust survivor Inge Ginsberg is making her final attempt at being recognized as a Death Metal Singer by auditioning for *America's Got Talent*. Inge redefines what it means to grow old and reminds us it's never too late to follow your dream.

The Mamboniks

Director: Lex Gillespie
2019, 90 minutes
USA / English
Dance, Culture

In the 1950s, a group of free-spirited, mostly Jewish retirees fell head over heels for a sultry dance from Cuba. Their love for Latin rhythms earned them the nickname the Mamboniks. Set in New York, Miami Beach, the Catskills, and Havana, this lively film features the Afro-Cuban sounds of Tito Puente, Celia Cruz, and Mongo Santamaria.

These films are brought to you by

Lois Lautenberg

The M. and G. Roesch Foundation

Community Partners

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JCC MetroWest's Margulies Senior Center

Who Will Write Our History?

Director: Roberta Grossman
2018, 94 minutes
USA, Poland / English, Polish, Yiddish
History, Holocaust, Occupation

This award-winning film, based on the book by Samuel D. Kassow, tells the wrenching story of the journalists, scholars, and community leaders who risked everything to record history within the Warsaw Ghetto. Led by Emanuel Ringelblum, the clandestine group — known by the code name Oyneg Shabes — chronicled stories and left a hidden cache of writings to record the true history of the Nazis' genocidal brutality. Mixing testimony from the archive with new interviews, rarely seen footage, and dramatizations shot on location, the film features the narration of acclaimed actors Joan Allen and Adrien Brody.

New York Times Critics Pick 2019

WEDNESDAY • APRIL 3 • 7:30PM

JCC MetroWest, West Orange

Post-screening discussion

Community Partners

Holocaust Council of Greater MetroWest NJ

Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ
Women's Philanthropy

This film is brought to you by

Susan & Richard Kogan

Barbara & Stuart Raynor

DOCUMENTARY

THURSDAY • APRIL 4 • 11:30AM

JCC MetroWest, West Orange

Post-screening discussion

Working Woman

Director: Michal Aviad
2018, 93 minutes
Israel / Hebrew
Women, Me Too Movement, Family
ADULT CONTENT

As primary breadwinner for her family while her husband struggles to keep his new restaurant afloat, Orna is elated when she gets a major promotion at work. However, she soon realizes that her career advancement has come with a hefty price tag. The unwanted sexual advances of her married boss is making life at work unbearable. Orna feels increasingly isolated, and when her world is shattered, she must pull herself together to fight for her job and a sense of self-worth.

This film is brought to you by

Terri & Mark Friedman

ISRAEL BONDS

Community Partners

Congregation Agudath Israel

Jewish Women's Foundation of NJ

National Council of Jewish Women

You Only Die Twice

Director: Yair Lev
2018, 92 minutes
Israel, Austria / Hebrew, English, German, Serbo-Croatian
Holocaust, World War II

The surprise announcement that Filmmaker Yair Lev's mother has inherited property in London leads to an astonishing discovery. He turns detective, embarking on a suspenseful journey and charged meetings between descendants of Jews and Nazis — to uncover the truth about the man who stole his grandfather's identity and later became president of a Jewish community in Austria.

Audience Award, Docaviv International Film Festival, Tel Aviv (2018)

Research Award, Docaviv International Film Festival, Tel Aviv (2018)

THURSDAY • APRIL 4 • 7:30PM

JCC MetroWest, West Orange

Post-screening discussion via Skype with Filmmaker

This film is brought to you by

Berkowitz Lichtstein, LLC

Larry Rein

DOCUMENTARY

FRIDAY • APRIL 5 • 11:30AM

JCC MetroWest, West Orange

Post-screening discussion with Emmy and Tony Award-Nominated Actress, Tovah Feldshuh

Golda's Balcony, The Film

Director: Scott Schwartz
2019, 86 minutes
USA / English
History, Israel

The rise of Golda Meir from Russian schoolgirl to prime minister of Israel is an amazing 20th-century story. William Gibson's play "Golda's Balcony"— which focuses on the period surrounding the 1973 Yom Kippur War — opened at the Helen Hayes Theatre in October 2003. Its star, Tovah Feldshuh, was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Actress and won the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Solo Performance, and it became the longest-running one-woman show in Broadway history. A recently discovered film from the original run has now been turned into a riveting motion picture.

This film is brought to you by

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Community Partners

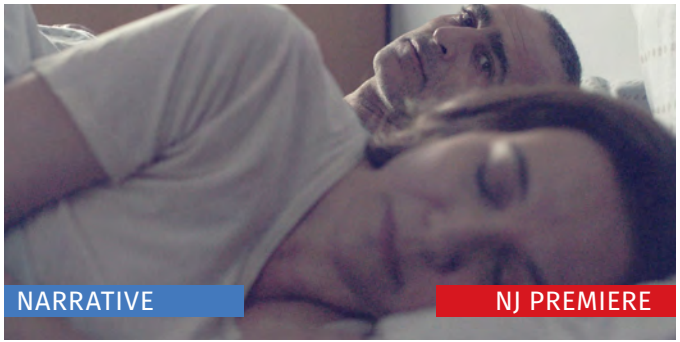
Congregation B'nai Jeshurun

Jewish Community Housing Corporation

Boxes

Director: Jeremy Borison
2018, 13 minutes
USA / English
LBGTQ, Family, Secrets

As Oma and her granddaughter spend the afternoon packing up the belongings of Oma's recently deceased husband, hidden truths about their lives come to light. Oma tries her best to hide a secret life she lived before the Holocaust, while Jessica grapples with coming out about her sexuality.



Echo

Directors: Amikam Kovner & Assaf Snir
2018, 92 minutes
Israel / Hebrew
Family, Marriage
ADULT CONTENT

In this stylishly romantic and sensual exploration of the intricacies of relationships, Avner suspects his wife Ella of having an affair. But while searching for evidence, he discovers something else: that the woman he thought he knew is a complete stranger to him. In his quest to uncover the true nature of their bond, he comes to realize that the more he learns, the less he understands.

These films are brought to you by

Caren & Herbert S. Ford

SUNDAY • APRIL 7 • 11:00AM

JCC MetroWest, West Orange

Back to Berlin

Director: Catherine Lurie
2018, 76 minutes
Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Poland, Romania, Slovakia / English, Hebrew, Hungarian, Romanian, Polish
History, Family, Holocaust

In 2015, the European Maccabi Games were held in Germany for the first time since World War II, at the Waldbühne Stadium, site of Hitler's infamous 1936 Berlin Olympics. The film follows 11 Israeli motor-bikers carrying the Maccabi torch from Tel Aviv to Berlin, retracing the route of early 1930s riders who set out from the British Mandate of Palestine to spread the word about the first Maccabi Games throughout Europe. Each destination holds a chilling resonance for the riders as they share how their families perished or managed to survive. Seven are descendants of Holocaust survivors, two are actual survivors and two are grandsons of original 1930s Maccabi Riders.

Nominated for Best Documentary and Best Director of a Feature Documentary (Catherine Lurie), International Filmmaker Festival of World Cinema, Berlin 2018

This film is brought to you by

Dr. Ruth & Gerald Legow

Family in Transition

Director: Ophir Trainin
2018, 70 minutes
Israel / Hebrew
Transgender, Family

Amit, a father of four living in Nahariya, reveals to his wife, Galit, and children that he's about to transition into a woman. Despite personal complications and social stigmas, Galit sticks with Amit through this transgender journey, and their children remain supportive. But just when it seems that their situation has achieved some normalcy, their lives are turned upside down.

Winner—Best Israeli Documentary Film, Docaviv Film Festival 2018

SUNDAY • APRIL 7 • 2:00PM

JCC MetroWest, West Orange

Post-screening discussion with Abby Stein, American Transgender Activist

Community Partner

Bnai Keshet

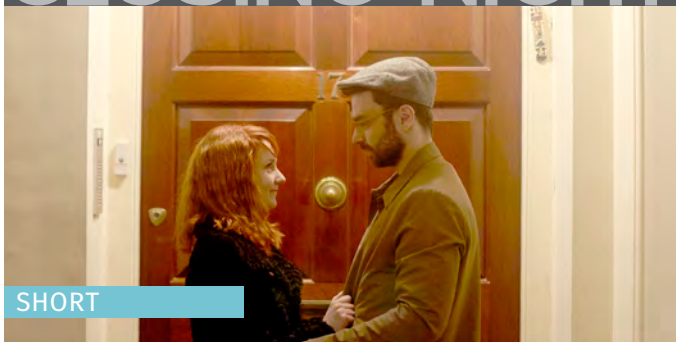
This film is brought to you by

Online Computers

DOCUMENTARY

CLOSING NIGHT

SUNDAY • APRIL 7 • 7:00PM / JCC MetroWest, West Orange



The Outer Circle

Director: Adam Baroukh
2017, 13 minutes
United Kingdom / English, Arabic, Hebrew
Religion, Family

Daniel and his fiancée, Katherine, who is midway through a stringent Orthodox conversion, and are eager to gain the blessing of his intimidatingly large and loud Iraqi-Jewish family.

Dessert reception to follow

The Other Story

Director: Avi Nesher
2018, 117 minutes
Israel / Hebrew
Religion, Family, Drama

By turns suspenseful, poignant, and humorous, the film introduces two rebellious young women — one fleeing the chaos of secular hedonism for the disciplined comforts of faith, the other desperate to transcend her oppressive religious upbringing for sexual and spiritual freedom — cross paths unexpectedly in Jerusalem. The characters' warring personal convictions and intimate anxieties come to embody the struggle for identity animating present-day Israel.

Opening Film—Haifa IFF 2018 and Israel FF LA 2018

Toronto International Film Festival 2018—Official Selection

These films are brought to you by

Sara-Ann & Robert Sanders

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as of February 8, 2019

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CareOne

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Sara-Ann and Robert Sanders, Deborah and Wayne Zuckerman

DIRECTOR

Caren and Herbert S. Ford, Fani and Alan Weissman, Wilf Family Foundations

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